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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

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## Islamic Affairs

### ICO Chief Issues Statement on Palestinian Day

*LD2811212592 Riyadh SPA in English 2002 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 28, SPA—The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] has stressed the importance of halting Israeli practices and called on the international community and the United Nations Security Council to take the necessary measures to provide international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

In a statement issued by Secretary General Dr. Hamid Algabid on Saturday [28 November] to mark the international day for solidarity with the Palestinian people, the OIC reiterated its support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and expressed its solidarity with and pride in their blessed intifadah.

The statement confirmed its commitment to providing full support to the Palestinian people to enable them to regain their inalienable rights, including the rights to return to their homeland, self-determination and establishing an independent state on their national soil.

Pointing out that this occasion comes one year after the launching of the Middle East peace process, the statement said all signs regretfully point to the failure of realizing any progress in the bid to find a just solution to the problem, because of the Israeli intransigence and rejection of fixed Palestinian national rights.

The OIC has supported international legitimacy resolutions, notably U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as the land-for-peace formula and the political rights of the Palestinian people.

It said the delicate nature of the current stage of negotiations require more intensive efforts by the international community to deal with the dangers surrounding the process and confront Israeli manoeuvres aiming to hinder peace.

It confirmed that just and comprehensive peace can not be reached without an actual implementation of international legitimacy resolutions and guaranteeing a complete Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

### ICO Begins Ministerial Meeting in Jeddah

#### Bosnian Foreign Minister Attends

*LD2811165592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Text] Jeddah, 28 Nov (SPA)—At the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] General Secretariat headquarters today, ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid Algabid received Mr. Haris Silajdzic, foreign minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The secretary-general had an extensive and fruitful exchange of views with the Bosnian foreign minister on all aspects of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially within the framework of the emergency session of the ICO foreign ministers, due to be held in Jeddah next Tuesday and Wednesday [1-2 December].

The secretary-general expressed confidence that the upcoming ministerial meeting will be able to take specific measures to provide support for the just struggle of the government and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in defense of their country in the face of Serbian aggression.

#### Bosnian President Arrives

*LD3011224692 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 30 Nov (SPA)—President of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina Alija Izetbegovic and President of the Republic of Albania Sali Berisha arrived this evening in Jeddah to attend the sixth extraordinary session of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina which is to start, God willing, tomorrow in Jeddah. [Passage omitted]

#### More Ministers Arrive

*LD3011094792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0723 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 30 Nov (SPA)—His Excellency 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign affairs minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Tofik Gasymov, foreign affairs minister of Azerbaijan, and Dr. Abdullah Fadzil bin Che Wan, Malaysian deputy foreign affairs minister, arrived this morning in Jeddah to take part in the proceedings of the Islamic Conference's sixth extraordinary session for the foreign ministers of Islamic countries on Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

#### Iran's Velayati Arrives

*LD3011180992 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati reached Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, today to participate in the emergency session of foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The two-day meeting to begin Tuesday [1 December], has on its agenda the latest situation of the war-afflicted Muslims of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and is expected to adopt a decision on the immediate end to the Serbian crimes in the Balkans.

Political observers believe that the Jeddah session would adopt a decision more serious than mere economic support for the oppressed Muslims in view of the shocking reports aired every day on the crimes and atrocities of the Serbs.

They believe that a unanimous decision of the Islamic countries, can activate the United Nations and certain

Western states, who are indifferent towards the fate of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Meanwhile, Velayati and his delegation left Jeddah for Medina this afternoon to pay respects at the holy shrine of the almighty's final messenger to mankind, Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him).

### Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives

*JN3011204292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Jeddah—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Jeddah today to participate in the sixth extraordinary session of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], which will be held on 1-2 December to discuss the tragic situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

He was received at Jeddah Airport by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, ICO Secretary General Hamid Algabid, senior Saudi Foreign Ministry officials, Syrian Ambassador in Riyadh 'Umar al-Sayyid, and Syrian Consul General in Jeddah Yahya al-Mahamid.

In a statement before leaving Damascus International Airport, al-Shar' stressed Syria's concern about adopting a unified stand by the Jeddah meeting to help the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina and to take practical measures to put an end to attempts of ethnic cleansing against the citizens there, particularly Muslim citizens. The foreign minister expressed regret over the failure of the international attempts to stop fighting and achieve peace in Bosnia- Hercegovina, and to safeguard its unity and territorial integrity.

Answering a question on whether the foreign ministers of the states directly concerned with the bilateral peace talks will hold a meeting on the sidelines of the Jeddah meeting, al-Shar' said: The Lebanese foreign minister has extended invitations to hold this meeting in Beirut on Friday, and Syria responded positively to the invitation and welcomed the holding of the meeting in Beirut.

### Draft Proposal on Bosnia Presented

*LD2911172292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] A draft resolution, proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran on Bosnia-Hercegovina, was today submitted to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. The political and international affairs director general of our country's Foreign Ministry, who is in Jeddah at the head of a delegation to prepare preliminaries of the ICO foreign ministers' extraordinary session, submitted the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposed draft resolution to the ICO's Secretariat today. The Islamic foreign ministers' extraordinary session will convene in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 1-2 December to study the plight of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

### ECO Session Begins in Islamabad; Six Members Added

*BK2011152592 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Afghanistan and five Central Asian states have become new members of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO]. They joined the ECO at the extraordinary session of the foreign ministers of the organization in Islamabad today. The inaugural session was attended, among others, by the delegates of the ECO members, federal ministers, and diplomats. In his welcoming remarks, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, said the ceremony marks the realization of long-cherished aspirations of our people. We are witnessing today a truly historic gathering which will usher in a new era of cooperation in the region. The foreign ministers of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan signed the instruments of accession to become new members of the ECO. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, was also present.

In his inaugural address, the prime minister said: "Today marks a watershed in our endeavor to build a solid base of cooperation in the socioeconomic and cultural fields. Today we embark on a new venture that will link our countries and our people who have been held apart by artificial barriers. Today the aspirations of 300 million people who share a common heritage and culture have been realized. The assertion of independence by our brothers in Central Asia has given a new dimension to the ECO. A bold and visionary program of action is essential to overcome our problems. Jointly we need to consider policies to facilitate mutual trade and economic cooperation and to develop effective commercial and financial institutions; to develop human resources and cooperation in science, technology and communications; to establish an infrastructure of road, rail and airlines to support growing economic activity within ECO; to intensify interaction among our people through cultural and media exchanges."

Referring to the Kashmir issue, the prime minister said the people of Kashmir are grateful for the understanding and support they have constantly received from our ECO partners.

"In our neighborhood, the people of Kashmir are waging a courageous struggle for their right to self-determination which is enshrined in the resolutions of United Nations as promised to them by India and Pakistan. The gross violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people by Indian security forces have reached alarming proportions. We cannot remain silent in the face of indiscriminate massacre of our brothers in Kashmir. We call upon the world community to condemn Indian actions and atrocities in Kashmir and to urge upon the Indian Government to desist from violating the fundamental

human rights of the Kashmiri people and to allow them their right to self-determination."

Referring to the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the prime minister said we are deeply disturbed at the grave human problem caused by relentless Serbian aggression against this newly independent state.

Taking the floor, the Iranian foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, welcomed the speech of the prime minister. He proposed that the speech of the prime minister should form part of official documents of the conference. The foreign minister of Azerbaijan, Mr. Tofik Gasymov, said the unity of the Central Asian states will be strengthened by joining the ECO.

Earlier, the foreign ministers of the ECO founding members—Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey—met in Islamabad. Welcoming the participating delegates to Islamabad, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, expressed the hope that the enlargement of ECO would strengthen economic cooperation among member-countries and improve socioeconomic conditions of their people. Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo took over from Turkey the chairmanship of the ECO. The modalities for participation of the Turkish Muslim community of Cyprus in ECO activities and supplementary budget for the ECO secretariat were also discussed in the meeting. The three ECO founding countries also amended the Izmir Treaty to provide for enlargement of the ECO, bringing the number of its members to 10.

### Iran's Velayati Comments

*LD2911194392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Today, with the ending of the two-day session of member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], an economic organization was officially created which will bring 300 million Muslims under an umbrella.

Up to a while ago, ECO was made up of three countries, namely the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan. Now Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, and Afghanistan have also become members. After the end of the two-day ECO session today, our correspondent talked to [Iranian] Foreign Minister Velayati in Lahore. Here is his report:

[Correspondent] Our country's foreign minister pointed out that the theme of the next foreign ministerial session in Islamabad will be cooperation and economic issues. He said: At today's meeting, the member countries unanimously decided that the ECO secretary general should collect and finalize the views of the seven new members for ECO's next foreign ministerial session. He added: The Representative Council of the Foreign Ministers of Member Countries, which is one of the ECO's essential organs, will, as from now, gain a majority with the participation of at least six members [as heard].

Mr. Velayati pointed out that the latest ECO session will bring about a change in the geopolitical and economic situation of the region. He added: We will witness substantial increases in ECO's activities on the regional scene as well as to its political, economic, cultural, and scientific respect on all aspects of life of member countries.

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat Urges UN Committee To Join Peace Process

*LD3011183992 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Excerpt] In a letter to the chairman of the UN Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Palestinian president has urged the committee to join its efforts to those of the cosponsors of the peace talks for finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

President 'Arafat also called on the international community to provide international protection for the Palestinians inside the occupied territories. He also urged the new U.S. administration to put the peace process on the correct course in order to oblige Israel to implement the UN resolutions.

On the other hand, a member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, Mr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, called on Israel to open a dialogue with the PLO, and added that the Palestinians of the occupied territories and those of the diaspora do constitute one people. [passage omitted]

### 'Urayqat on Talks With Bin-Shahir, Mitterrand

*JN0113203892 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Dec 92 p 30*

[By 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[Text] Dr Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy chairman of the Palestinian negotiations delegation, has described the Palestinian delegation's talks with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shahir yesterday as positive. He said the talks dealt with the peace process in the region, in addition to the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in their quest for a comprehensive and lasting settlement in the region. Dr. 'Urayqat praised this coordination and said it is positive, objective, and constructive. He added: The prime minister emphasized to us that Jordan is bent on supporting the peace process and backing the stands of the Arab parties participating in the talks, including the Palestinian delegation.

He added that the coalition states [dawal al-tawq] and the Palestinians will hold a coordination meeting on the sidelines of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference.

scheduled to open in Jeddah today, following the postponement of the Beirut meeting as the foreign ministers have other engagements.

Asked about the Palestinian delegation's talks with French President Francois Mitterrand when he visited the occupied territories last week, 'Uraygat said: In view of France's positive attitude toward the Palestine question, we met with President Mitterrand and conveyed to him a message from President Yasir 'Arafat on the outcome of the peace negotiations and asked him to call for another Madrid conference because Europe should play an effective role in supporting this peace process for political and geographic considerations. Europe is also qualified to play a major role in the quest for a just peace and should not remain outside this political process. We also asked France to adopt the UN Security Council's call for examining the outcome of these negotiations.

Dr. 'Uraygat added: The French president was realistic and objective. He showed understanding of all the issues we presented. Dr. 'Uraygat stressed that President Mitterrand sees no alternative to the peace process in order to reach a just and lasting peace in the region.

Dr. 'Uraygat said: We explained to the French president in detail the Israeli positions and the peace steps already taken, emphasizing to him that the plan the Israelis are proposing to us is unrealistic and completely unacceptable. He promised to do his best to bring about the success of the peace process.

'Uraygat added: The French president stressed his country's readiness to grant scholarships to Palestinians for training purposes in various fields. These will begin with 100 scholarships. He also expressed France's readiness to extend to the Palestinians 20 million francs in the form of grants and loans to the private sector in the occupied territories. We also asked for loans and aid to help finance the construction of 7,500 housing units in Jerusalem. We are also working to establish a $400-million fund to set up housing and economic projects in the occupied territories. This fund will be backed by France and the European states.

The French president stressed that there is no alternative to the PLO's participation in the peace process. He welcomed the Palestinian president's visit to Paris. Dr. 'Uraygat said: President Mitterrand informed us that the doors of Paris are open for any visit by Mr. Yasir 'Arafat whenever he wishes. He stressed to us the Palestinians' right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state in implementation of UN Resolution 181.

Asked how he views the peace negotiations, Dr. 'Uraygat said: Shamir, who was recently defeated in the elections, succeeded in wasting eight months. Then, came the Israeli elections, and the negotiations were semi-paralyzed. During the last round of the negotiations, we managed to prove to the Israelis, Americans, and Europeans that the Israeli plan proposed to us is impractical and unacceptable on the ground. Everybody should realize that the foundations of a future structure should be laid down. We need patience, because we will accept nothing short of a just peace that meets our legitimate rights. We understand the transitional phase as a temporary phase during which authorities are transferred from the Israeli occupation to an authority elected by the Palestinian people and a legislative council that has all powers.

Dr. 'Uraygat added: There are four bases for our understanding of the transitional phase:

1. One authority.

2. One geographical unity that includes all the territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.

3. One legal code during the transitional phase that stems from the Palestinian legislative authority.

4. A separate economic unity, despite our awareness that the transitional phase does not mean ending full occupation, but means the beginning of withdrawal of Israeli forces, provided they are redeployed in specific areas under appropriate international supervision and protection.

Dr. 'Uraygat added that the transitional phase is temporary and will definitely lead to the Palestinian people's exercising their right to self-determination and establishing their independent state. This is, of course, necessitated by realpolitik, and this is what we are seeking.

He emphasized that the meeting of the cordon states, which will be held on the sidelines of the meetings of the foreign ministers of Islamic states, will discuss various issues related to the peace negotiations, since every round is preceded by a coordination meeting for the parties participating in the talks. He noted that a preparatory meeting was held in Amman before the previous meeting.

Asked about the issues they will raise at the Jeddah conference of Islamic foreign ministers, he said: We will explain to the conferees our cause and what is happening at the negotiating table, especially since our conflict revolves primarily around holy Jerusalem and the ongoing Israeli settlement activity there. We hope that a unified Arab and Islamic stance will be crystallized to create a mechanism for activity on all levels for the freedom of holy Jerusalem.

He confirmed that the eighth round of negotiations will begin on 7 December and last until 17 December. No Palestinian decision to take part in the next round has yet been made. This meeting, therefore, will be of great importance to exchange views on all political issues, he said.

Asked whether the administration of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton could change its stance toward the peace process, Dr. 'Uraygat said: The United States acts according to its interests, and not the change of faces at the White House.

Dr. 'Urayqat is scheduled to leave Amman today for Jeddah to take part in the meetings of the cordon states, while Faysal al-Husayni left Amman yesterday for Cairo to meet with Palestinian leaders who are present in the Egyptian capital.

### DFLP's Hawatimah Meets Palestinian Delegation

*JN0112080092 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Dec 92 p 14*

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], met in his office in Damascus yesterday with a delegation of notables from the occupied Arab territories, including members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with the seventh round of negotiations and the final arrangements to convene a national popular congress in the occupied homeland. Regional committees began work to hold mini-conferences prior to convening the national congress.

### 'Ashrawi Meets Left-Wing Israeli Deputies

*LD3011185292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Palestinian negotiating delegation spokeswoman, has announced that on 28 November that she and a number of Palestinian leadership members in the occupied territories met in Tel Aviv a group of Israeli left-wing deputies, including Education Minister Shulamit Aloni. She explained that the Palestinian side included brothers Faysal Al-Husayni, Sa'b 'Urayqat, and Ghassan Al-Khatib, and that the meeting, the second of its kind in one week, was held at the home of Israeli deputy Yossi Sarid. She said it was an attempt to influence the Israeli side and to explain the Palestinian point of view.

Dr. 'Ashrawi added that the Israeli side had asked deputies from the Meretz Movement, which supports Palestinian self-determination, to work seriously on human rights violations in the occupied territories and to influence the Israeli government's political stance.

### Overt PLO Participation in Peace Talks Urged

*TA2711164892 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 27 Nov 92 pp 1, 11*

[Editorial: "A Call To Change the 'Old' Madrid Formula"]

[Text] The Madrid formula has been unable so far to achieve a peaceful political settlement in the region. In fact, this formula's timetables have not been met over more than 13 months in seven consecutive bilateral rounds and in the multilateral rounds. Therefore, the demand to change this formula in the interests of the goals on which the peace conference itself was based seems logical and realistic.

In fact, the issue of change stems from an objective context relating to the cosponsors of this conference and to the Israeli side. The old "Soviet" sponsor has changed into a Russian sponsor as a result of immense changes and breakdowns in that collapsing body that used to be called "the Soviet Union." Moreover, the U.S. administration has also changed in accordance with electoral criteria and results, which naturally are unconnected to the standards and criteria of the Russian change. At the same time, however, that change was generated by and is moving against a new background of public outcry for change in the United States itself. As for Israel, the government there also underwent change under a broad umbrella of titles and slogans like "Progress Toward Peace" and "Speeding Up the Peace Process." This process is a top priority of the new Israeli Government, at least as this government stated on many occasions upon its assumption of power.

Three major governments or administrations that for a long time took part in drawing up or sponsoring the Madrid formula have in fact changed. According to sources within those administrations or governments, the change took place in the interest of change itself. Then why should this ensuing change not be a central motive for changing the "old" formula of the Madrid conference?

Naturally and evidently, this call for change seeks to inject other elements into the peace process to accelerate the pace of progress and bring about a sound, correct realization of the aspired for peace in accordance with international legitimacy.

Therefore, on the basis of this presumed change, the PLO should participate candidly, overtly, and unambiguously in all phases and levels of the upcoming negotiations. The European countries, too, should participate with prominent activity and important sponsorship on the same level as the United States and Russia, the major and original sponsors of the conference.

Moreover, the United Nations should be invited to assume its genuine and essential place in this negotiating process, which is based on its resolutions in the first place.

Such a change and its requirements, aspects, and expected positive results naturally call for the resumption of dialogue between the United States and the PLO. This also calls for the Israeli Government's acceptance of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people.

As long as all this does not take place in the context of the prevailing logic of change, growing doubts will prevent the current Madrid formula from achieving anything serious or decisive in the peace process, to which all parties are declaring their commitment. Until further

notice, however, it seems that such "a romantic" declaration will not produce the real change that leads to actual peacemaking.

### New U.S. Administration Urged To Be Unbiased

*LD2511200292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[Station commentary]

[Text] We do not wish to sow doubt prematurely about the stand which the next U.S. Administration, headed by Bill Clinton, will take on the peace process. We are waiting for this administration to take over officially and we are looking out for the policies and stands which the new administration may announce. There might be, this time, as close as possible to rectifying the direction of the peace process which has been blown off course by Israeli procrastination in seven rounds [of negotiations]. The U.S. condoning of this procrastination helped encourage the Israeli mentality to not abiding by the principles of international legitimacy to such an extent that the U.S. initiative was nearly buried alive. This is clearly seen in Israel's deliberate attempt to stall the peace process in its various tracks.

Although we are not pinning any false hopes on the U.S. stand, since we disapprove of the series of failures which the United States had in dealing with the [Palestinian] issue in past decades, we will however continue to watch out, with an interest devoid of any illusions, for any expected U.S. move. We also insist that this move be confined to the role of an unbiased intermediary which is dictated by the United States' status as sponsor of the peace negotiations.

We must here warn against the Israeli attempts—which are apparently well accepted by Clinton's incoming administration—to separate the tracks by isolating the Palestinian track from the Arab track. [Israel is doing this] by giving the wrong signals because there are some Arab sides that are more prepared than others to advance on one particular track. This might be stressed at the coordination meetings which the Arab sides are expected to hold in Beirut. The strengthening of coordination between the Arab sides will thwart any attempt to separate the tracks since this is aimed at striking unilateral deals or signing partial agreements in one direction or another.

## OPEC Affairs

### OPEC Countries Meet in Vienna

#### Quotas To Be Reviewed

*LD2711141192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] The session of the OPEC oil ministers, which is being held in Vienna, has reviewed the proposal to raise the official OPEC production roof by 600,000 barrels a day for the first three months of the next Christian year. The OPEC oil ministers, who approved 24.2 million barrels a day as OPEC's production roof last August, have witnessed an increase in OPEC's true production by 1 million barrels a day in the past two months. This has reduced the price of oil on the world's markets in the past two months. The reason for this increase in output is the lack of quotas for member countries.

At the session in August, the Islamic Republic of Iran warned that the absence of quotas for member countries would weaken the price of oil and increase OPEC's total production. Oil sources in London believe that the Saudi Government, which is producing over 8.5 million barrels a day at present to fill the gap caused by the absence of Iraq's oil production, has been the main reason for the increase in OPEC's production in recent months. At the current session in Vienna, Saudi Arabia is not prepared to agree to reduce its output.

Saudi Arabia's stand has caused a further drop in the price of oil on the world's markets. The price of the North Sea's Brent oil, delivered in January, dropped to 18.5 dollars a barrel on London's markets this morning, showing a drop of about half a dollar compared to last night's price. It is said that if Saudi Arabia prevents a unanimous decision from being reached at the current session in Vienna the price of oil would drop further, which would be harmful to all oil producing countries.

Sources close to the current OPEC session in Vienna say that Russia and Kazakhstan, as two oil producing countries, have expressed their desire to join OPEC. It is not yet known whether the joining of these two countries, or any other country, to OPEC would change the present form of that organization or not. It is also not clear whether OPEC has any desire to reorganize itself.

#### Changes in Quotas Approved

*LD2811102592 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] Vienna, Nov. 27, IRNA—Iran will lower its oil output from 3.9 to 3.5 million barrels per day (bpd), Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said here Friday [27 November] afternoon.

Aqazadeh told reporters following the afternoon session of the OPEC ministers here that the decision to lower the oil production will come into effect as of December 1. He expressed hope that the move will result in an increase in oil prices.

According to him, the ministers in today's session discussed membership of Russia and Kyrgyzstan in OPEC. Saudi Arabia too, according to reports, has decided to lower its oil production to 8.4 million bpd. The quota of Nigeria, Kuwait and Indonesia, have reportedly been set at increased levels of 1.86, 1.65 and 1.37 million bpd respectively. However, the production quota of other OPEC members are said to have been reduced. OPEC, in

its former secretary in Geneva, decided to raise its overall production ceiling to 24.1 million bpd, a move which caused rapid decline in oil prices to dlrs. [dollars] 19 per barrel. However, it is predicted that the demand for OPEC oil will increase by 1.44 million bpd next year.

Aqazadeh is in Vienna for the 92nd OPEC general conference, held twice a year.

### Kuwait Minister Satisfied

*LD2811165892 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Nov 93*

[Excerpts] Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baqhli tonight expressed satisfaction with the results of OPEC's meeting and its decision to grant Kuwait the right to produce oil in excess of its current quota of 1.5 million barrels per day. Speaking following the OPEC ministerial meeting, the minister told KUNA that the meeting has achieved good results and that the OPEC has managed to maintain its cohesion despite the difficult conditions it is passing through including Ecuador's withdrawal from it. [passage omitted]

He said that he had expounded to the Venezuelan oil minister and chairman of the current OPEC session, Dr. Oliviu Parra, that Kuwait is reconstructing its oil installations and that its production will increase gradually.

'Ali al-Baghli is due to leave Vienna tomorrow for London.

## Egypt

### Mubarak Sends Message to UN Meeting on Palestinians

*NC0112105392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] President Husni Mubarak yesterday addressed a message to the UN committee on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The committee held a meeting marking the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, head of Egypt's permanent delegation to the United Nations, read the message.

In his message, President Mubarak says that Egypt welcomes UN participation in the multilateral peace talks addressing regional problems in the Middle East, including that of the Palestinian refugees. President Mubarak calls on the international community to encourage the concerned parties to overcome the obstacles facing the achievement of just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Such peace, Mubarak adds, should be based on the principles embodied in international law as well as the UN Charter and resolutions, all of which call for recognition of the legitimate political and national rights of the Palestinian people.

### 'Amr Musa Comments on Jeddah ICO Meeting

*NC3011160792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers meeting, which will open in Jeddah tomorrow, will focus primarily on the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, in view of the continuing deteriorating conditions there.

Speaking before leaving Cairo for Jeddah today to take part in these meetings, the foreign minister said that the ministers will listen to a report by Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen, chairmen of the peace conference on Yugoslavia, on the situation in Bosnia- Hercegovina. Musa added that the conferees also will listen to a report by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic on the situation in his country in view of the constant Serbian attacks. He noted that the conference will adopt decisions on how to deal with this problem in an international framework now and in the future. Musa explained that the Senegalese foreign minister will make a report on the situation in Somalia, as his country is the current chairman of the ICO and the OAU.

Concluding his statement, Musa noted that the Egyptian delegation to the conference will hold talks on the sidelines of the conference with heads of the participating delegations on various current issues.

It is worth noting that this will be the second ICO meeting devoted to the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. In addition to this topic, the conference is expected to examine Albania's and Kyrgyzstan's request to join the ICO.

### Loan Agreement Signed With Saudi Development Fund

*NC2911184692 Cairo MENA in English 1055 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Cairo, Nov 29 (MENA)—The Saudi Development Fund and Egypt signed today a loan agreement, under which Saudi Arabia will extend 94 million riyals (about 83 million Egyptian pounds) to finance an irrigation project in Sinai.

The agreement was signed by Fund Chairman Muhammad Abu-al-Khayl, also Saudi minister for finance and national economy, and Egyptian Minister of State for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah.

The irrigation project is aimed at using Nile waters in reclaiming lands north of Sinai. It will create one million new jobs.

Adding this loan, the Saudi Fund has extended 880 million Egyptian pounds in loans to Egypt.

### U.S. 'Pressure' To Sign Chemical Treaty Reported

*NC3011120592 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Nov 92 p 1*

[Report by 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn: "U.S. Pressure on Egypt To Sign Treaty on Chemical Weapons"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that the United States recently put intense pressure on Egypt to force it to sign the treaty banning the proliferation of chemical weapons, which is scheduled to be endorsed by the UN early next year.

Sources say the U.S. pressure followed Egyptian activity on the Arab level that sought to draft a unified Arab stand linking the Arab states' signing of this treaty with Israel's agreement to establish a zone free of mass destruction weapons and sign the treaty for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Israel's signature on this treaty would place its nuclear installation under international inspection. The U.S. Administration has dispatched the U.S. assistant secretary of state for defense affairs to Cairo to persuade officials to sign this treaty, claiming that such a step would create what he called the atmosphere of confidence necessary for making the current negotiations succeed. The U.S. official stressed that Israel will sign the treaty to encourage the Arab states to follow suit.

The same sources added that there are increasing fears of several Arab states signing the treaty, so depriving the Arabs of an element of pressure on Israel, compelling it to subject its nuclear installations to inspection and destroy its arsenal of nuclear weapons. The sources

added that the U.S. Administration sets out the Arab states' signature on this treaty as a condition for it to exercise a more effective role in the so-called peace process, as the U.S. official claimed.

During his recent talks in Cairo last week, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres refused any talk of raising the issue of Israel's nuclear arsenal in the current talks.

### State Said Seeking Alternatives to Nuclear Power

*NC2911144592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1036 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Electricity and Energy Minister Mahir Abazah has affirmed that Egypt has not given up the idea of building nuclear power stations, but is reconsidering plans because of the exorbitant cost of such stations. He noted that Egypt is looking for other types of energy within Egypt's means, just as the major countries currently are doing.

Speaking at the National Democratic Party's political forum, the minister said three conventional power stations are under construction in al-Kuraymat, Sidi Kurayr, and 'Uyun Musa at a cost of 2 billion Egyptian pounds and with an output of 3,250 megawatts. He noted that 50 percent of the cost will be in local currency.

He pointed out that 40 percent of these type station's components will be domestically produced, and that this level will reach 65 percent by the end of 2000. He noted that great amounts of electrical equipment are produced in Egypt, with about 100 percent of them containing Egyptian components.

### Interior Minister To Meet Tunisian, Algerian Counterparts

*NC3011200392 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Nov 92 p 1*

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahmun Imna'il]

[Text] The interior ministers of Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria will met in Algiers next month to confront so-called religious extremism. Security sources say Egyptian Interior Minister 'Abd-al- Halim Musa held contacts with the Tunisian and Algerian interior ministers to organize this meeting after Egypt and Algeria accused Iran and Sudan of supporting so-called terrorism and extremism.

The sources add that a team of Algerian police officers completed training in Cairo a few weeks ago as part of close security cooperation between Cairo and Algiers. The sources note that a delegation of Egyptian police officers will shortly leave for Algiers to supervise the training of another group of Algerian officers.

The sources say the three interior ministers will discuss several security plans to confront the religious movement, including restricting the travel of Iranians and Sudanese to the three countries; reducing the diplomatic missions of Iran and Sudan in the three countries; monitoring the activities of the leaders of religious groups and movements; fabricating charges against Muslim activists and reducing their influence over trade unions, professional organizations, universities, and schools.

### Paper Notes Iranian-Hamas 'Base Alliance'

*NC3011081892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Base Alliance," the newspaper AL-AHRAM says in its editorial: The PLO publicly confronted Iran and accused it, through statements from president 'Arafat himself, of flagrant interference, through which it is attempting to undermine the struggle front by using some Palestinian factions to combat the organization and its branches. This has become clear through its providing of millions [not further specified] to the Hamas Movement and three other factions.

The paper goes on: The time is now ripe for such a confrontation following the Iranian danger to the Palestine question. This danger has spread since the rulers of Tehran covertly allied themselves with the Hamas Movement. Through this alliance, the latter proceeded to carry out large-scale assassination operations against Palestinians who do not belong to it under the pretext that they are Israeli agents.) AL-AHRAM says that the above-mentioned alliance between the Iranians and Hamas became public knowledge when a joint statement was issued affirming Iran's recognition of the Movement as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, urging denial of the PLO by considering it outside the unanimity to struggle, distancing the PLO from the arena, which more or less strips it of its sovereignty and authority, and recognizing only Hamas as having authority over the people.

Since this recent statement, Hamas' role as an agent for the Iranian regime has become clear—this regime which no longer hides its authoritarian objectives in the region and which tries through all methods of the carrot and stick policy, through funding or destruction, to infiltrate and topple the existing regimes.

### Paper Criticizes Iran's 'Expansionist Schemes'

*NC2911083392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM says: Egypt has clarified more than once its position on the Iranian policy, which seeks to invade the Arab world by force. Egypt has said that Arab security is an affair of the Arab states alone, as Iran is not an Arab state. As for regional

security—that is, the security of the Middle East—this is another matter that involves Iran, just as it involves other states.

The paper adds: The Iranian rulers' crisis is that they feel that their country has become isolated from the world. Therefore, they are trying to open windows in their immediate area to serve as a security belt. But instead of resorting to civilized political methods based on dialogue and mutual interests, they have resorted to expansionist schemes based on 'Alawite views [reference to followers of 'Ali] and on their belief that their regime is the only Islamic one in the region.

The paper explains: Although all the neighboring states are Islamic states, the Iranian rulers claim to monopolize what they call the true Islamic leadership. This is, of course, an attempt to hide behind religion to make others rebel against regimes and fight them overtly and covertly by all detestable methods. Such methods have defamed true Islam in the eyes of the world and made it synonymous with terrorism and bloodshed. This is considered a historic crime against Islam committed by those who call themselves the ayatollahs, who are only the ayatollahs of destruction and the ruin of Islam.

## Iran's 'Dream of Illegitimate Expansion' Viewed

*NC3011122692 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 27 Nov 92 p 3*

[Editorial: "What do the Iranians Want From Egypt?"]

[Excerpts] "Farsi Edarat-e Mantaqeh" is a Persian phrase that means regional superpower. This is the slogan being raised in Tehran today, where Iranian officials are literally saying: The dominant view is that Iran has a rare opportunity to install itself as a superpower in the region now that Iraq is out of the equation. Thus Iran's war of words against the people, government, and president of Egypt continues. Before this verbal war, Iran sent some mean terrorists to shake Egypt's stability. When Egypt announced this and warned Iran against playing with fire, Iran responded with a media battle that reminded us of the cold war era. [passage omitted]

At the same time Iran became an arms arsenal, but the noise that accompanied the purchase of arms was much greater than the true value of these arms. It is enough for us to talk about the Russian submarines deal. The propaganda about the deal was far greater than the truth. The Hormuz water is shallow, not suitable for submarines. The Russians earned hard currency. The Americans turned a blind eye as part of their plan to catch the Iranian turkey and frighten the Gulf states so that they would continue to need the United States and so that arms sales to the region would increase.

Let us return to the Iran-Egypt story, which is part of the Iran-Arab tale. What exactly is this story? [passage omitted]

Egypt still believes there are many points of agreement between the Arabs and Iran, that Iran should not heighten tension in the Middle East, and that Iran can serve as a factor for stability and calm in this part of the world.

When the first signs of Iranian aggression against the Gulf states appeared, Egypt announced it would support any Arab country threatened by Iran or others. This is Egypt's firm position—yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

When the Damascus Declaration was launched, Iran used every means to obstruct it, although the declaration was not meant to be against anyone; it was an attempt to find an Arab formula to defend the Gulf states. Iran had nothing to do with the declaration because it discusses Arab security arrangements, but the Iranians said the declaration excludes them from regional security arrangements.

What is the story? Why the sudden escalation?

An Egyptian-Iranian rapprochement took place some time ago. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati spoke about resuming diplomatic relations between the two countries and said this is an Iranian demand. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the main condition for resuming relations is noninterference in Egypt's internal affairs.

Why should Khamene'i say what he has said? After Khomeyni's departure, Iran said the revolution ended and the state started. The interests of the state dictate that it be moderate.

But it appears that irrespective of whoever rules Iran, the dream of illegitimate expansion is the norm.

The Iran of the shah was the same as the Iran of Khomeyni; both are an extension of the Kambiz empire [the family to which Cambyses II, who took Egypt in the sixth century B.C., belonged]. Then comes Khamene'i to announce his full loyalty to this heritage, leading Iran nowhere.

Perhaps Iran is suffering from a genuine internal rift between a moderate trend represented by Rafsanjani and an extremist trend represented by Khamene'i. It is said that Rafsanjani is a hostage in the hands of those who have a higher voice. How long will he remain in this situation?

It seems there is more to it than this. It is as if the Iranian leaders cannot but keep looking for an enemy. If one did not exist, they would invent one. [passage omitted]

Perhaps Iraq's absence and what happened to it—thanks to its rulers' foolish practices—tempted the foul adventurists in Iran to try to fill the imaginary vacuum in the region.

We ask again: What exactly is the story, o rulers of Iran?

## Editor Views U.S. Role in Anti-Iran Campaign

*NC3011204592 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Nov 92 pp 5, 10*

[Article by Chief Editor 'Adil Hamyn: "Relations With Sudan and Iran Were Improving, So Why the Setback and the Sudden Crisis?"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] We are currently in the middle of an acute crisis with Sudan and Iran. The crisis came to the fore following President Mubarak's speech to the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, which prompted the newspaper TEHRAN TIMES to respond. It was reported here that 'Ali Khamene'i, the Islamic revolution's guide, made "obscene" remarks about Mubarak. Unfortunately, the text of these remarks have not been published. We tried, but failed, to learn about them through official Egyptian sources (by failed we mean that these sources told us that they had not obtained a copy of the statements attributed to Mr. Khamene'i). No one listening to Tehran radio's Arabic service or world radios would notice a heated media battle on Iran's part, as is the case in our official media.

Senior officials and our official media are accusing Iran of financing and training terrorists. Sudan is said to be involved in the scheme as well. The BBC was correct to note that Egyptian authorities have not produced any evidence to support these claims, however. For our part, we call for evidence to back these charges, which might be used as a pretext for a military operation.

U.S. intelligence has recently informed Cairo that the Iranian "terrorist" scheme has seven objectives: first, the assassination of a number of political figures; second, the destruction of vital installations; third, attacks on tourists; fourth, sabotage against military installations; fifth, demonstrations; sixth, the assassination of Christian leaders; and seventh, attacks on police headquarters. According to this U.S. report, Iranian officials in charge of this scheme believe a reorganization of the terrorist camps in Sudan is required. Under this reorganization, a specialized training center would be set up to serve each of the objectives. Iranian experts (200 for each center) have allegedly already arrived or are on their way to Sudan. The Sudanese will be in charge of administration and getting the trainees to Egypt, in addition to organizing liaisons with the Islamic groups that provide youth for these camps. The U.S. information discusses a comprehensive military agreement between Sudan and Iran (following a Sudanese military delegation's visit to Tehran in October). The devil adds that this military agreement provides Sudanese with Iranian military units to fight along their side should Egypt try to seize Hala'ib by force. We believe that this report is clearly a lie for several reasons.

The Sudanese say that talk about them exporting terrorism to Egypt does not make any sense; the Iranians also deny the charge. We believe that logic supports them. It is inconceivable that any Sudanese leadership would carry out murders and bombing operations inside Egypt. The Sudanese people are standing firmly against any such intention (if any) and are out (before the Egyptian people) to protect the security of their brothers in the north. Even if we presume that such evil intention by the Sudanese ruling leadership exists, this leadership is currently too busy with economic problems and expansion in agriculture to engage in such serious adventures. Moreover, its preoccupation with the ferocious and incessant battle in southern Sudan prevents it from setting up camps to engage itself in a second war on the northern border. If mere brotherhood would not deter the "cunning and conspiracy of the Sudanese leadership," direct interests prevent it from getting involved in a plot against Egyptian security.

We also believe that Iran has other things to worry about in the Gulf and in Central Asia (Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the CIS). Even if Iran has any energy for violence left to direct against Egypt, it can not rely on Sudan to do it; that would be impossible.

It is known that intense efforts have been going on for some time to reestablish relations between Egypt and Iran and to make progress in Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

Syria had made considerable progress in its mediation between the Egyptian and Iranian Governments. We recall that (during Rabin's visit to Cairo) a campaign was suddenly mounted by some suspect writers in Cairo to ruin what had been achieved. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry had to intervene to defend the normalization of relations between Cairo and Tehran.

Syria and the Sultanate of Oman were seeking to set up a joint committee to resolve political differences. The meetings of that committee were supposed to culminate in an Egyptian-Iranian summit meeting. However, it happened that Cairo received the reports about the "terrorist camps" and the influx of Iranian revolutionary guards. When Cairo passed along its questions and accusations to Tehran (through mediators), the Iranian reply was a resolute denial of any involvement in any scheme to threaten security and stability in Egypt.

In the meantime, Egyptian-Sudanese relations were experiencing a marked loosening of tension, as reflected in the last meeting of the committee in charge of the Hala'ib issue. The two sides had agreed to settle all their differences through political understanding and diplomatic channels. This was supposed to be crowned by a summit meeting. Then the issue of the camps, terrorism, and revolutionary guards came up and rapid and direct contacts were made (in the second half of October) to make the necessary inquiries. Sudan responded by sending a long memorandum refuting all the allegations.

The Iranian and Sudanese denials do not mean that everything that was said was groundless; they mean that there is someone who is deliberately trying to drive a wedge by twisting facts. The Sudanese memorandum gave a detailed account of the circumstances of Sudanese-Iranian relations. It noted that when it decided

to establish security and military relations with Iran, Sudan was absolutely not targeting security in southern Egypt or seeking to threaten general stability in Egypt. The memorandum explained that Sudan's dealing with Iran was necessitated by its need to strengthen its defensive and military capabilities vis-a-vis the mutiny which threatens its territorial integrity and the sources of the Nile. The memorandum adds that Sudan did not seek cooperation with Iran in particular, and that the U.S. and European refusal to supply it with weapons left it with no other source than Iran, which agreed to several easy terms to facilitate the repayment of the transactions.

The Sudanese memorandum explained that the limited number of Iranian experts are professional military men in charge of training. It is clear that upgrading the combat efficiency of the Sudanese forces was meant for operations in south Sudan, and the results are clear now. For further reassurance, the memorandum asserted that the weapons arriving from Iran are of limited capabilities; they are only good for fighting rebels and could never pose any threat to Egyptian security.

As far as I know, the memorandum had a good impression on certain official circles. However, the crisis flared up once again. What happened?

Even if we say that some have believed the recent U.S. report about the seven-goal Iranian-Sudanese sabotage scheme, we note an impudent exaggeration in certain officials' statements. During Peres' [name as heard] visit, loud remarks were repeated about training terrorists to destroy the High Dam (I do not understand the link between the two things: the visit and the insistence on breaking the ties linking Egypt and Sudan). We can only describe remarks on attempts to destroy the High Dam as impudent, because they reflect a type of blatant lying which does not become an official. These lies are so blatant that they insult the nation's intelligence. How can this hypocrite repeat to our face that the High Dam could be destroyed by some hand grenades and fedayeen operations, when it is supposed to withstand earthquakes and atomic bombs? You should have shame or show some tact, o you!

In any case, this blatant lying unintentionally had its benefits after all: It destroyed the credibility of all official and media statements about terrorism and destruction!

Logically, we do not believe what is being reported about terrorist camps in Sudan. Nevertheless we are waiting for the people in power to submit evidence proving us wrong. We ask them: Why do you refuse to implement the Sudanese leadership's repeated proposal to send inspection missions to Sudan to clarify the facts and end suspicions, that is if you want to know the facts, not merely to raise an uproar and poison the atmosphere?

We tell the people in power: If you really want to confront political violence, we are on your side. Such a confrontation, however, does not pass through Khartoum or Tehran but indeed should begin in Cairo by changing Egyptian Government policies.

Even if we admit that young people resorting to violence are drawing support from Sudan or Iran (and we will not admit this unless you provide evidence), this does not mean that we are facing mercenary groups who kill and bomb for a fee. Those who risk their lives do so only because they imagine that they are carrying out jihad for the sake of God and expect their reward in the afterlife, not in this world and not from anyone.

O rulers: If corruption becomes widespread, morality collapses, justice is perverted, people go hungry, and young men do not find jobs, then general anger will prevail. If, furthermore, you block the paths of peaceful reform, why are you surprised when this anger turns into violence and killing? We are not justifying violence but explaining it, particularly why it escalates and becomes widespread. The reasons are domestic not foreign. Stability cannot be established by fighting Iran or Sudan. Stability and progress can be achieved if a God-fearing person assumes power who will then rectify what you have corrupted.

There is, however, another aspect to the current crisis with Iran. It has been discovered, all of a sudden, that Iran threatens the security of the Arab Gulf states and it has been said that Egypt will not permit this. It is well known that Gulf security was among the issues raised during the attempt to normalize relations [between Cairo and Tehran]. I have heard from official Egyptian sources that Iran emphasized its intention and ability to contain its differences with the United Arab Emirates. In messages brought by mediators, Iran said it had no designs on Gulf territories and that its opposition to Egyptian intervention stems from the fact that it is a Gulf state and wishes to keep the issue among the Gulf states, with whom it wishes to reach detailed agreements on its own security, that is Iran's security. It is understood that Egyptian authorities rejected this Iranian reasoning and asserted (rightfully) that they are concerned with Gulf security because any threat to the Gulf states poses a threat to Egyptian security. The Iranian leadership responded by renewing its assertion that it would not threaten Gulf security. Egypt responded by pointing out that this Iranian promise does not justify Iran's reservations about the relations between Egypt and the Arab Gulf states even if these relations touch on security matters. Iran replied that it does not object, provided that these relations are not based on the premise of rousing hostility to the Islamic Republic. The messages (through the mediators) stopped at this point. The mediators interpreted this as meaning that the two sides had implicitly accepted the political limits that must be observed in the Gulf. Suddenly matters were turned upside down. What happened?

We have followed the recent reports propagated by Washington about Iran's military buildup and the eight agreements it concluded to develop its nuclear program.

U.S. sources allege that Iran plans to invade some Gulf states in 1994 or 1995 and will use its nuclear program to deter possible reprisals. Consequently a preemptive strike must be planned. The Gulf security arrangements became openly directed against Iran, something its leadership had always feared. The security arrangements (under U.S. leadership) became directed against Iran. The United States demanded that Egypt participate! What more can one say?

The government's enthusiasm to participate is public: There is an unbroken flow of current writings about the danger inherent in Iran's military power (not one word is written about Israel's military power). They are referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's arms purchases as if they were a "great catastrophe" for the Arab and Islamic nation. They say nothing about the flood of arms to the Zionists. They say nothing about Israel's new submarines, aircraft, tanks, missiles, and nuclear arsenal. [passage omitted]

## Interior Minister on Safe Tourism Measures

*NC2811214192 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic*
*25 Nov 92 p 2*

[Report by 'Adil Sabri and Muhammad Zaki]

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that security measures being taken to protect tourists have to balance two delicate things: tourist security and not causing a security panic in the country. The minister pointed out that police forces assigned to protect tourists have been doubled and supplied with vehicles and aircraft to monitor major tourist roads. He confirmed that police officers are wearing civilian uniforms and that their cars will carry nonpolice license plates to protect tourists without letting them be aware of the extra measures around them.

Musa's remarks came in a seminar on safe tourism organized by the Egyptian-German Friendship Society, which was attended by Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan; Shaykh Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, mufti of the Republic; Bishop Samuel, attending on behalf of Pope Shanudah; and Local Administration Minister Dr. Mahmud Sharif. [passage omitted]

Major General Baha'-al-Din Ibrahim, first assistant to the interior minister for public relations, said that there are 1,123 detainees, including 825 political detainees and 298 detainees, held on criminal charges. Maj. Gen. Ibrahim said that terrorist elements who enter Egypt via Sudan and Libya are tracked by the security departments. The Interior Ministry cannot hold them in check, however, because they cannot be held in custody for more than 45 days without being charged, after which they carry out their criminal acts. [passage omitted]

## Government Said Seeking Muslim Brotherhood's Help

*NC2811204592 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic*
*20 Nov 92 p 1*

[Text] REUTER has carried an important news item from Asyut regarding a request made by Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's government to the Muslim Brotherhood to assist it in confronting terrorism. Dr. Muhammad al-Sayyid Habib, president of Asyut University's Faculty Club and a leading Brotherhood member, said that four Muslim Brotherhood leaders met with a senior security official two weeks ago and discussed the acts of violence perpetrated by extremist groups. Habib told REUTER that the Brotherhood decided to take the initiative after the domestic situation began to turn critical. He explained that the government wants the Muslim Brotherhood to help it implement its goal of reducing violence in return for granting the group a legitimate character. Habib said the Brotherhood leaders' meeting with the security official was the most important meeting of its kind in 12 years. He announced that the Muslim Brotherhood has begun to draw up a statement specifying its stands on current key issues and will submit it to the government. He also said that the Muslim Brotherhood is afraid that the government might be just using it.

Dr. Habib said that during the meeting the security official urged the Muslim Brotherhood to keep their distance from extremists and condemn violence in more public statements. He added that the Brotherhood leaders declined to give this official a list of their members but said they would be ready to do so if the Muslim Brotherhood is recognized as a political party.

REUTER said the meeting reflects the government's ambiguous relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood which, though officially banned, counts some well-known personalities among its leaders who publicly operate from their offices in Cairo. The agency said with the rise of violent acts in the past few months this relationship deteriorated, especially after some Brotherhood members were arrested and after Brotherhood sympathizers made clear political gains in some union elections.

## Muslim Brotherhood Denies Report

*NC2811205392 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic*
*25 Nov 92 pp 1, 8*

[Report by 'Abduh Hasanayn from Asyut]

[Text] Dr. Muhammad al-Sayyid Habib, a leading figure in the Muslim Brotherhood and president of Asyut University's Faculty Club, has denied the statements attributed to him by REUTER. The news agency reported that the government had requested the Muslim Brotherhood's mediation to confront extremism. Dr. Habib pointed out that the agency's reporter mixed things up, which made the report fabricated and unfounded. He said that he had told the agency that the

Brotherhood's relation with the government was confined to the Brotherhood's attempts to open channels of dialogue with it with a view to informing it of the group's methods and what it does as a political force in the street to bring Egypt out of its crisis. He said: The government ignored these attempts. Instead, we were surprised to find that the detention campaigns against group members intensified without justification. Contacts were held with officials to know what was on the regime's mind vis-a-vis the Brotherhood. A meeting with some officials was arranged and an amicable dialogue took place in which we tried to learn the reasons for the detention campaigns and how far the regime would go in its policies against the Brotherhood. The dialogue was frank and no bargains or deals were made in return for granting legitimacy to the group.

Dr. Habib stressed that the Brotherhood's position on violence and extremism is clear. He said the group condemns and rejects violence and its sources and he pointed out that confronting violence requires the solidarity of all forces and parties to eliminate the causes of corruption. He said the group derives its legitimacy from God Almighty and operates out of a sense of duty. Dr. Habib denied REUTER's report that a security official had asked for a list of the group members, noting that the group is about to submit an application for the establishment of a political party along with a list of the founding members.

## Islamic Group Official Interviewed on Aims

*NC2811194592 Cairo SABAH AL-KHAYR in Arabic 19 Nov 92 pp 12-18*

[Interview with an unidentified media official of the Islamic Group by foreign and domestic correspondents, including SABAH AL-KHAYR's Nahid Dayf, in the Imbabah section of Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Question] Let us begin by asking you about the Islamic Group's objectives.

[Answer] The main objective of the Islamic Group is to apply Islamic law in Egypt. The entire doctrine of the Islamic Group is explained in a book called "The Islamic Action Charter" [mithaq al- 'amal al-islami]. This book contains nine sections, one of them called "Our Goal." In that section it is written that our main objectives are to make people worship their God and establish a caliphate system inspired by the teachings of the prophet.

[Question] Make the people worship? Do you mean forcing people to perform religious rites?

[Answer] I mean showing them the right path to worship God Almighty, because many people are becoming ignorant of the religious rites.

[Question] How would you accomplish that?

[Answer] By calling them to God's path, advising what is right, and forbidding what is sinful.

[Question] How about the occasional use of force or violence?

[Answer] This cannot be used in calling to God's path. Force has other uses. We use kind persuasion, not force or violence, to bring people to God's path.

[Question] There are certain practices being attributed to the Islamic groups. For instance, accosting and thrashing unveiled women, attacking wedding parties featuring belly dancers, and banning memorial services. Are these examples of what you call kind persuasion?

[Answer] These are not instances of calling to God's path. These are cases of advising what is right and banning what is sinful. Many of the pro-government ulema confuse the two matters. These ulema are not even clear on the matter of jihad. For us, these are separate matters.

When we killed [secular political writer] Farag Fudah, the mufti of the republic said: Call to God's path through wisdom and good advice. What does Fudah's killing have to do with the call to God's path? There is a difference between a man whom I call to God's path and one whom I advise to change his ways, and these two cases differ still from that of a man on whom I carry out the punishment [of death] for apostasy or to try to prevent him from doing evil. [passage omitted]

[Question] How about [former People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at] al-Mahjub's killing? What was the motive for it?

[Answer] It was in revenge for the killing of [Islamic Group leader] 'Ala' Muhyi-al-Din. [passage omitted]

[Question] Do you have any link with the bombing of tourist facilities, the armed attacks on foreign tourists, and the statement [threatening tourists] issued by the Islamic Group in Luxor?

[Answer] Tourists wreak social havoc in the country. Their money is being used to buy the latest Mercedes automobiles for top government officials. Look at what happened in Qina. The ruling regime closed down all the mosques and made house-to-house searches. In contrast, the regime provides protection, luxury, and other facilities to the so-called tourists. Egyptians are being tortured and oppressed in their own country while foreigners are being honored, pampered, and allowed to engage in all kinds of debauchery.

Nevertheless, the Islamic Group has no quarrel with tourists as individuals and does not allow tourists to be killed or injured. Still, the ruling regime is demolishing our houses and mosques at the same time that it is building hotels and purchasing luxury buses to make tourists comfortable.

[Question] If we were to seek a formula to end the current conflict between the Islamic Group and the ruling regime in Cairo, what would your demands be?

[Answer] It is all up to the ruling regime. This conflict consists of persecution and escalation on the part of the regime and self-defense on the part of the Islamic Group. The side that does the escalation is the one that can end the conflict.

[Question] Newspaper reports indicate that several of the Islamic Group members have repented. How do you comment on that?

[Answer] The repentance thing—I would not be exaggerating to say that 95 percent of those reports are fabricated. As for Khalid Sa'd and others, he was an ordinary member of the Islamic Group who defected because of certain temptations. It is as simple as that, but the Egyptian media exploited the matter. In all, not more than five members have defected.

[Question] News reports also speak of camps for training Islamic Group members in Sudan. Are these reports true?

[Answer] They are groundless. They are being fabricated by anti-Islamic media to prod the regime to crack down on the Islamic current. Generally, however, the Islamic Group supports any Islamic government in any part of the world, including Sudan.

[Question] Do you have any organization with organizations or unofficial individuals? [question as published]

[Answer] We have no contacts or coordination with any foreign sides or unofficial organizations.

[Question] We have an agreement that you will either answer frankly or not at all. With this in mind, let me ask bluntly: What is the Islamic Group's source of finance? There is much talk about your receiving funds from abroad.

[Answer] I am familiar with all that is being said about the Islamic Group's sources of finance, particularly the accusation that we receive foreign funding, but this is all untrue. The Islamic Group raises its funds through donations collected in mosques or regular donations—not membership fees—by members.

[Question] Are such funds sufficient to finance the military wing?

[Answer] The expression military wing is exaggerated, as is the media reportage about it. Let me state clearly that the Islamic Group does not have a military wing. It is simply involved in self-defense, revenge, and punishment. As for how exactly the financing is taking place, even we the members of the Islamic Group do not know that. Had the military wing been as formidable as it is rumored to be, the government would not have stayed in power this long.

[Question] How about the allegation that you rob jewelry shops to finance your operations?

[Answer] The Islamic Group has never engaged in this practice. Maybe another group has, for reasons of which I am unaware. I am not speaking on behalf of any other group, because we do not know their motives.

[Question] Do you still maintain links with Islamic Group Secretary General 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, despite his staying in America, through cassette tapes or other means?

[Answer] Let us say so. A man who preaches in America's mosques certainly has tape recordings. Through his wife or any of his acquaintances, we may get to listen to these tapes. But the current connection of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman with the Islamic Group is basically spiritual. There is no organizational link right now.

[Question] If one of the Islamic groups were to take power in Egypt, what is the guarantee that it will not get into a power struggle with other groups, as happened in Afghanistan?

[Answer] There are no Islamic groups in Egypt other the Islamic Group and the Muslim Brotherhood, with the possible exception of a few individuals who occasionally engage in some individual or collective action.

[Question] How about the al-Jihad Organization?

[Answer] There is no group in Egypt with that name. Ninety percent of what is attributed to al-Jihad should in fact be attributed to the Islamic Group. Leftists and the government are fond of the name al-Jihad because they want to portray the Islamic Group as an organization that focuses solely on jihad and neglects other religious duties.

The word jihad has been given a connotation of violence. The regime focuses on that word to scare the public away from the Islamic Group. There might be a few individuals aside from the Islamic Group who have good reason to act in revenge for what the regime did to their women in jail, but such people lack the national level of organization, mosques, and institutes that the Islamic Group has.

Let me tell you this: When Islam rules, there will be no divisions and everyone will rally to the banner of Islam.

## Islamic Group Leader on Confrontation With Government

*NC3011154792 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Nov 92 p 1*

[Text] Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, leader [amir] of the Islamic Group, has denied calling on religious orders for

followers to attack tourists in Egypt or instigating defendants to open fire on tourist groups. In a telephone conversation from the United States with AL-SHA'B, the Islamic Group leader said that the confession forcibly extracted from a defendant that 'Abd-al-Rahman incited him to kill tourists are fabricated and unfounded. He added that security forces have been torturing defendants in order to obtain false confessions of terrorist acts.

He stressed that he does not believe any confession the police state in Egypt extracts from defendants because they are obtained through beating, torture, electric shocks, and the policy of dragging mothers and wives into interrogation rooms and assaulting them to force defendants to give false testimony. He added that the struggle between the government and the Islamic Group will end the day the two parties get together at the negotiating table and when the police change their treatment of Muslims and free the detainees. When this happens, the Islamic Group will stop pressuring the government and will sit with the ulema and the trustworthy to diagnose the malady and prescribe the cure, 'Abd- al-Rahman added.

Replying to the charge that the Islamic Group is a terrorist organization, he said that any violence the Islamic Group employs is in response to the violence and terrorism of the government, which is killing the Muslim youth and putting them away in jails and detention centers. He added that the regime in Egypt has consistently muffled opinions and suppressed freedoms because the only way the government can survive is through repressive and unjust laws, such as the emergency and antiterrorist laws.

### First Edition of State-Run Religious Paper Appears

*NC0112115792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1034 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] The al-Tahrir Printing and Publishing House today published the first edition of the new religious newspaper 'AQIDATI [My Faith]. The new publication is the first religious newspaper to be issued by a state-run publication house. 'AQIDATI will appear every Tuesday on 24 pages of tabloid size.

In its first edition, the paper features frank interviews with leaders of the Islamic groups in Upper Egypt, explaining their views on the regime and current issues. The interviews are conducted in an intellectually refined manner that eschews the methods and ideas of the extremists.

The first edition also carries an interview with People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur, in which he states that the bulk of the country's current laws are based on Islamic laws, except for a small section of the penal code. Dr. Surur adds that the People's Assembly will not pass a single law that contravenes Islamic tenets.

## Sudan

### RCC's Salih Comments During Ethiopia Visit

*EA2811171092 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] Addis Ababa, 27 Nov (SUNA)—Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, has reviewed the joint cooperation efforts between Sudan and Ethiopia and the proceedings of the second session of the Joint Ministerial Committee, which reviewed the agreements and protocols (?concluded) during the previous session and incorporated new additions into them on expanding bilateral cooperation. This is what his excellency said at his press conference here on 26 November shortly before leaving Addis Ababa. It was attended by local journalists and various foreign correspondents in the Ethiopian capital.

His excellency said the results of the latest session [words indistinct] proof of the course of Ethiopian-Sudanese cooperation, declaring his confidence in the sincerity of the two sides in their efforts to implement and transform into a tangible reality what had been decided.

His excellency referred to his meeting with Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi, (?saying he had conveyed to him) a message (?from) Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC and the Council of Ministers, wishing the Ethiopian people progress and prosperity and his hope that the work of the Ministerial Committee had directed that appropriate steps be taken to remove obstacles [words indistinct] to promote and strengthen joint action. He pointed in this context that one of the results of this had been the conclusions arrived at by the commission, as well as the interest of the political leaders of the two countries in joint action [passage indistinct] to achieve greater cohesion and brotherhood in the Horn of Africa.

Maj. Gen. Salih explained that despite the military victories in the areas affected by the rebel movement and the numerous positions retaken from the rebels last year, the National Salvation Revolution was striving to approach the situation politically through negotiations and dialogue, out of its commitment to the course it declared in the national peace conference. His excellency confirmed that Sudan was politically committed to respecting clear policies and rejecting the policies of hegemony and subjection. Accordingly, the revolution also wanted others to respect its views and options. In this context he drew attention to what some sections of the foreign media were reporting—matters which were basically nonexistent in Sudan, particularly as regards human rights which Sudan was striving to respect [word indistinct] according to its principles and its faith. Maj. Gen. Salih explained that the military agreement concluded between Sudan and Ethiopia covered security as opposed to military issues. He said: We live in the same area and are striving to cooperate in the interests of the peoples of the two countries. Our security (?problem)

requires a degree of coordination between the security services of the two countries. He stressed Sudan's respect for the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states and its regard for the importance of security arrangements capable of promoting joint action and interests to afford the citizens of the two countries freedom of movement and the exercise of [word indistinct] activities, while combating smuggling and poaching.

His excellency said that the Ethiopian national charter was clear on prohibiting activities aimed against neighboring states. He said: We in Sudan fully realize that the present Ethiopian Government is not harboring any members of the rebel movement, while concomitantly we do not harbor or permit (?the existence) inside Sudan of any force hostile to (?the Ethiopian) Government.

Maj. Gen. Salih added: The colonialist forces wanted to leave behind a Horn of Africa in conflict, something that obstructed its development and the exploitation of its resources for the benefit of its citizens. He said that in realization of this, the leaders of the two countries rejected any [word indistinct] if it threatened to create instability and disagreement in the region.

Asked a question about the federalism and confederalism being called for by the so-called Nasir and Torit groups and the option of the government wanted by the revolution, Maj. Gen. Salih stressed the priority the revolution had given to peace and the national conference to discuss the issue about (?two months) after its eruption. He said the conference had adopted clear resolutions and prominent landmarks to which the government was totally committed. They included the option of federalism, which guaranteed national unity, pointing out the split in the rebel movement and its policy changes. He said the movement was convinced that the issue was being approached peacefully but hidden hands were manipulating it toward a distortion of its true interests.

On increased efforts to deal with the tragic situation in Somalia, his excellency explained that this problem lay at the core of the region's concerns, particularly those of Ethiopia and Sudan. He drew attention to the emphasis of the recent Dakar African summit on the role of the states of the [word indistinct] of the region in finding (?a solution).

He also pointed out the role of the West African states in paying attention to the problem of Liberia and the Central African states to the situation in Rwanda. He stressed that it was the business of the Horn of Africa states to deal with this problem regionally as best they could and render the region secure and stable.

Maj. Gen. Salih and his accompanying delegation arrived home at 1200 on 28 November after a visit to Addis Ababa lasting about four days, during which they participated in the meetings of the second session of the Joint Ethiopia-Sudanese Ministerial Committee.

## Judicial Cooperation Document Prepared With Iran

*LD3011181692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] During the second round of talks between the Iranian and Sudanese delegations held today, a draft document entitled a memorandum of understanding on judicial cooperation between the two countries was reviewed for finalization. At the session, Yazdi described the agreements reached during the trip as a practical prelude to cooperation between the two countries in judicial matters. He formally invited Sudanese judiciary chief Jalal 'Ali Lutfi to visit Iran.

While describing the agreements reached as practical, Jalal 'Ali Lutfi stressed his judiciary's need to use the judicial experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the importance of the exchange of experiences and the expansion of judicial and legal relations. Accepting Yazdi's invitation, he expressed the hope that the visit would take place at the first opportunity.

## TNA Speaker on Noninterventions, Egyptian Relations

*EA2811183592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Nov (SUNA)—The Sudan will never deviate from its declared principles and its solid national objectives as stated by the revolution, asserted speaker of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA), Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah. He indicated that Sudan is building its foreign relations with brothers and friends on the basis of fraternity, fruitful cooperation [with] neighbouring ones in particular. Sudan foreign relations are also based on common interests and the principle of non-intervention in other countries' affairs, Khalifah said.

He further reiterated that the Sudan is no longer a weak country that builds its relations to suit changing regimes in other countries, but relations are firmly based on stated principles. Khalifah, who addressed the foreign relations committee of the TNA Thursday [26 November], asserted that Sudanese-Egyptian relations bear great importance as they involve religious, cultural and neighbourly elements.

## Culture, Information Council Formed

*EA2911165192 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Excerpt] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has affirmed that the state attaches particular importance to the media fulfilling their mission and facing the challenge issued by the Western media which are invading us with their advanced equipment. That is what he said in an address to the opening session of the National Culture and

Information Council on 28 November at Friendship Hall. His excellency added that culture in our country had been exposed to much suppression, confusion, and ruin: We must prepare to rehabilitate our information and cultural structures in preparation for the great construction and development holy war. [passage omitted]

[Omdurman Radio at 1900 GMT on 28 November added that the "National Culture and Information Council," created by decree from the head of state, includes the following personalities:

["The minister of culture and information, chairman;

["The secretary general of the ministry, rapporteur;

["Assistant secretary general of the ministry, deputy rapporteur;

["All the ministers of culture and information in the states, members;

["Heads of councils of ministries of culture and information, members;"

["Secretaries of culture and information in the ministries, members.

["Other members are: Dr. Sulayman Uthman; Mr. Salih Muhammad Salih; Mr. Jamal al-Din Uthman; Mrs. Ni'mat Ballal; Dr. Bashir Salih; Mr. Muhammad Sa'id Ma'ruf; Yasin Umar al-Imam; Mr. Musa Ya'qub; Mr. Najib Adam Qamar al-Din; Maj. Gen. Muhammad Abdallah Uwaydah; Col 'Abd-al-Azim Nur al-Din; Mr. Lino Bol Deng; Dr. Salah Mahyi al-Din, Mr. Salah Mustafa, the artist; Professor Ahmad Muhammad (Shibreyn); Mr. Ahmad Kamal al-Din; Mr. Umar Karrar; Mr. Jamal al-Din Sharif; Mr. Babikr Ibrahim Hasan (Hasin); Mr. Muhammad Khayri Ahmad; Professor Awn al-Sharif Qasim; Brigadier Hasan Hamadayn Sulayman; Mr. Dominic (West); Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hadi; Mr. Musa Sid Ahmad; Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif (al-Bell); Mr. Awad Ahmad Fadil; Mr. al-Makbub 'Abd-al-Salam al-Makbub; Mr. Fath al-Rahman al- Nahlan; Mr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Fadil; Dr. Uthman Abu Zayd; Dr. Ahmad Khalid; Mr. 'Abd-al-Salam Sulayman; Mrs. Sumayyah (Abdin Shawwa); Mr. Louis Farah; Brigadier Dr. Babikr Muhammad al-Tawm; Dr. Kamal Muhammad Zayn; and Mr. Abdallah Ahmad al-Rumaili."]

## Garang on Confederation, Dry Season Offensive

*AB2911192192 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Problems continue to mount for the long-time leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], John Garang. The SPLA has split into several acrimonious factions who seem to fight each other as much as the Khartoum government. Earlier this year, government forces had a string of successes, retaking town after town and reopening the Nile for river transport. And the SPLA still hasn't been able to capture the main southern town of Juba. Each year, there is something of a lull in the fighting during the rainy season and John Garang has been touring African capitals with a proposal for a confederate state in Sudan—something of a change from his previous insistence on a unified secular state. But the rainy season is coming to an end and the government may be looking to capitalize on their military successes in the new dry season. In Nairobi, Catherine Bond asked John Garang if he is worried at this prospect.

[Begin recording] [Garang] I am not worried about the dry season. For instance, I am prepared for it. We are at war, we have been at war for the last nine to 10 years. And this dry season offensive would not be new. There had been seven or eight dry season offensives before. This is just one of them. We will fight it the best way we know how as we have done in the past. And we will come out on top. So, no, I am not worried. I am prepared. In terms of Juba, it is a war. We do not identify and say that we are going to capture Juba at a particular date, but, yes, we will capture Juba sooner or later.

[Bond] Why haven't you been able to capture it to date? Is it to do with the split in the Nasir faction which happened last year? Has that weakened you irreparably?

[Garang] Not irreparably, but it is a part of the situation. When the Nasir people split, they stopped fighting the army; they stopped fighting al-Bashir and started fighting us. So yes, it does affect the war situation. We have changed. So, that was a factor, but this has now changed. There are parties within the Nasir group: People like Gordon Kon, (Major General Yunni), (Stephen Bell), and Kojo Oriyang), who attacked Malakal on 19 October. They actually overran Malakal and I sent him a message of congratulations to this effect. We are working in dialogue with them so that we fight a common enemy; that is a very healthy situation. It will affect the present dry season offensive of Al-Bashir.

[Bond] You are saying that Gordon Kon took it on his own initiative to attack Malakal and that basically doesn't jeopardize greatly an agreement that you claim was made between Lam Akol and the Sudanese Government to secure Upper-Nile Province and stand against you?

[Garang] That's right. We are very happy. We are very happy with what Gordon Kon did. We believe he was misled last year in terms of the Nasir faction announcement of a coup. There are fundamental issues that I respect. Sudan is multi-religious country. The imposition of one religion—and maybe it was for more fundamentalism—is a recipe for disaster and is a cause for suffering, not our initiation of the war. The imposition of one nationality over the others is also a recipe for disaster. Let us have Sudanese unity within diversity.

[Bond] Could you explain this idea of confederation, because last week in Harare, it was understood by some of the journalists who attended your press conference that you had actually supported the idea of a separate Sudan?

[Garang] I do not support the idea of separation. I presented what we see as a viable solution to the problem with war in the Sudan, that is, the establishment of a Sudanese Confederation within a united Sudan, so, that was a misunderstanding that I was supporting or advocating separation. No, we stand for Sudanese unity, but that unity must be based on the concrete realities of our country. [end recording]

## Western Sahara

### President Asks UN To Put Pressure on Morocco

*LD2811225592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Text] Once more, the Saharan president today called on the UN to put pressure on Morocco to make it respect the UN peace plan. In a statement to APS in London, Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz affirmed that the problems put forth by Morocco on the implementation of the UN plan are not technical, but political.

The Saharan president expressed his hope that the expected meeting of the chieftains of the Saharan tribes after tomorrow in Geneva would be crowned with success. This meeting is expected to put forward a consultative viewpoint on the criteria for identifying the voters in the referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara. The contribution of the chieftains of the Saharan tribes could, in the opinion of the Saharan president, be technical and that is by comparing the names of the voters and inspecting their identity cards.

## Oman

### New Air Force Commander Appointed

*PM3011142392 Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 24 Nov 92 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Al-'Aridi Named RAFO Commander"]

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qaboos yesterday issued two Royal Decrees: Decree No. 76/92 appointed Talib Bin-Mirza Bin-Zaman al-Ra'isi Ambassador at the General Diwan of the Foreign Ministry. Decree No. 77/92 promoted Air Commandore Muhammad Bin-Mahfuz bin-Sa'id al-'Aridi to the rank of Vice-Marshall and appointed him the commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman.

## Qatar

### Dispute With Saudis Could Provoke GCC Pullout

*PM3011142192 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Nov 92 pp 1, 4*

[George Sam'an report: "Qatar: All Options Open, Including Pulling Out of Cooperation Council"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—A Qatari diplomatic official has emphasized that his country is considering all options, including suspending its membership or pulling out of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], if no means is found to resolve the border dispute between it and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The official announced that Qatar will not participate in the GCC summit scheduled for 22 December "because it is disconcerted and upset." He pointed out that his country's decision to participate or not to participate in the summit or any other meeting at ministerial level is a "sovereign decision" which concerns it alone. "And when it feels that it has no decisionmaking freedom in the Council, it will suspend its membership and pull out of it."

The official said that Gulf mediation efforts in particular and Arab mediation efforts in general have stopped at this stage, and there are no indications that a settlement to the border dispute with Saudi Arabia can be found imminently.

Asked why Qatar does not raise the dispute at the Gulf summit so that the solutions will be within the GCC framework, he said: "The Council is not qualified to resolve the dispute."

The official registered his appreciation for the recent statements made by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, hoping that the dispute will be a "summer cloud," as the Saudi monarch said, and that there will be steps to secure a settlement speedily. He praised King Fahd's policy, which keeps away from stirring up problems, prefers to resolve all disputes amicably, and is eager to maintain sound relations with all states.

The official added that Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani will attend the emergency meeting of Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers to be held in Jeddah on 1 December to discuss the Bosnia-Hercegovina issue.

Asked whether the Qatari minister will hold meetings on the sidelines of the conference, the official said that it is natural to hold such meetings. But he pointed out that his program does not include holding meetings with Saudi officials.

On what is being said about the developed relations between Qatar and Iran and the possibility of their contributing to undermining the pillars of the GCC, the official emphasized that Iran is a neighboring Islamic country whose existence on the eastern coast of the Gulf no one can ignore; nor can its role and influence be ignored.

The official pointed out that relations between Doha and Tehran are clear, open, and not aimed against any Gulf country. They are based on mutual respect and noninterference in one another's internal affairs. "These relations would collapse when they lose these two fundamental foundations."

He was asked: Are Qatar's political and economic interests not still within the GCC? He replied: "We are studying where our interests lie, and in the light of that we will make the right decision." The official said that the issue of the Emiri [United Arab Emirates] islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa can only be settled through dialogue and by the two sides' sitting at the negotiating table... or by going to the International Court of Justice.

## Saudi Arabia

### King Fahd Appoints 10 To Senior Ulema Body

*LD3011221192 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Royal decree No. A/87/138; dated: 6.6. 1413 A.H. [Corresponding to 30 November 1992] With the help of God, We Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and after taking cognizance of Article 2 of the Royal Decree No. A/87/137 dated 8.7.1391 A.H., have ordered the following: First: Their graces the following shaykhs will be appointed members in the Body of Senior Ulema:

1. His Grace [HG] Shaykh Nasir Bin-Hamad Bin-Rashid.

2. HG Shaykh Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Subayl.

3. HG Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Sulayman al-Badr.

4. HG Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Hamzah al-Marzuqi.

5. HG Shaykh Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Turki.

6. HG Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayd Al Sulayman.

7. HG Shaykh Dr. Bakr Bin-'Abdallah Abu Zayd.

8. HG Shaykh Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahab Bin-Ibrahim Abu-Sulayman.

9. HG Shaykh Dr. Salih Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Aram.

10. HG Shaykh Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim Al al- Shaykh.

Second: This decree of will shall be communicated to the competent authorities to be endorsed and implemented.

## 'Aziz on Economic Blockade, Western Position

*JN3011193292 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Amman, 30 Nov (PETRA)—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has asserted that there is a tangible degree of understanding of Iraq's suffering and the way the big powers deal with and impose unjust resolutions on Iraq.

He stressed the steadfastness of Iraq and its people in the face of challenges and dangers imposed on it through the economic blockade which will certainly end one day.

During a stopover in Amman today after leading an Iraqi delegation to the Security Council's meetings to discuss the sanctions imposed on Iraq, 'Aziz told journalists: Those who showed such an understanding during private meetings assured us that the real issue hinged on the positions of the United States, Britain, and France, which support the continuation of the blockade on Iraq. They said that the question is political and that implementing the resolutions will pave the way for lifting the blockade completely or gradually.

He added: Therefore, I consider such an understanding to be important and that we have to wait for some time, especially since such an understanding provides a good base for future action.

Regarding prospects for a better understanding under the new U.S. Administration, 'Aziz said that if the new administration shows a better understanding and does not interfere in a violent manner as the Bush administration is currently doing to prevent the United Nations and its agencies from adopting the sound stand, then this understanding will be converted into tangible stands.

Regarding the situation in Iraq and the Iraqi people's steadfastness, he said: The Iraqi people are suffering from the blockade. This is a reality. But this nation remained and will remain steadfast because it is a matter of challenge and fate and if any nation faces a fateful challenge, it will assume its full responsibilities, regardless of the circumstances.

He affirmed that the Iraqi people are known for their capability to endure difficulties and for their steadfastness in the face of challenges, which are aimed at harming their sovereignty, dignity, and legitimate rights and that this steadfastness will be converted, in a tangible manner, into a process of production, creativity, and ability to confront difficulties.

Regarding Turkey's understanding of the blockade imposed on Iraq, the Iraqi deputy prime minister explained that the Turkish Government and people feel that they are the main loser in the blockade imposed on Iraq, that they voice this, and that some Turkish personalities give astronomical figures about the damage caused to the Turkish economy as a result of Turkey's implementation of the Security Council's resolutions. He also noted that the West is putting severe pressure on the Turkish Government to prevent it from taking unilateral action against the blockade. The Turks, he added, are waiting for any new Security Council position and have the desire to resume their economic relations with Iraq on a very large scale, as they asserted.

Concerning his expectations about the upcoming Security Council meeting, he said: I do not want to talk about these expectations in an exciting, unfounded way. I believe that we are winning our cause gradually because the game, as it is known, is aimed at destroying Iraq, subjugating it to the Western colonialist will, and partitioning Iraq to entrench Western colonialist domination.

He affirmed that Iraq's steadfastness in the face of all this means that this game did not and will not succeed; that we are winning our cause; that in all cases, these forces cannot isolate Iraq, which is an important country and has an important role in this region; that they should change their position that has failed to achieve its goals; and that they should deal with Iraq as an important country in this region.

Asked about attempts to partition Iraq, he said: That is impossible. Iraq is a deep-rooted country. As it is not an artificial entity, foreign forces cannot partition it. Iraq will remain unified and strong despite the current exceptional state of affairs in its northern part.

## Further Remarks

*JN3011205492 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Excerpts] His majesty the king discussed Arab and international developments with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf. [passage omitted]

Earlier today, the Iraqi deputy prime minister said understanding of Iraq's position at the United Nations was growing. However, Mr. 'Aziz said, the Security Council had failed to acknowledge Iraq's implementation of UN resolutions. He told the News at Ten that the term full implementation can have different interpretations.

[Begin 'Aziz recording] That is because of their political decision to continue the sanctions, not to lift them, because if they acknowledge officially, if they acknowledge what has been implemented of the provisions of Security Council resolutions, mainly 687, then they must face the obligations that they should lift the sanctions. They do not want to lift the sanctions. Therefore, they obscure this fact and confuse the situation, and they say: Well Iraq has not yet fully implemented all the obligations imposed under resolutions. Well, full implementation can have different interpretations. Nothing is full in the world. There is part of 1 percent not yet implemented, they could say: Well it is not yet fully implemented. But if they have a different look, an impartial

look to what has been implemented, they could say: Well, a great deal has been implemented and the process is going on, and, therefore, it is time to consider seriously the lifting of sanctions. [end recording]

## Saddam Receives Delegation From Suq al-Shuyukh

*JN3011203392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has said: We pray to God that they will not compel us to use arms. But when the use of arms becomes necessary to safeguard dignity, we then become dutybound to seek God's assistance and bear arms in the face of each and every despot and sinful aggressor.

The leader president added: It is my conviction that the person who leads the Iraqis is bound to be a winner. If he seeks the assistance of God, he is bound to be a winner in the earthly life and in the hereafter as well. With you, we will be winners.

The president went on to say: Iraq's wall will remain high. Baghdad will remain immune to the evil of the ambitious parties. God willing, Iraq's wall will not be low, thanks to the Iraqis' faith and the determination of Iraq's men.

The leader president made these remarks today when he received a delegation of tribesmen from the Suq al-Shuyukh District in Dhi Qar Governorate, who came to salute his excellency the president, to renew the pledge, and to reaffirm the pledge of allegiance to the people and their leader. The delegation presented a document to his excellency the president, in which tribal chieftains pledged and swore in God's name to defend their territory, showing cooperation and solidarity, against any attempt that could be made by treacherous foreigners or treasonous agents.

Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, praised this document, deeming it a manifestation of a stand that emanates from sound minds and hearts. He blessed the endeavors of this group of citizens as well as the endeavors of all Iraqis in defense of their homeland and in the course of their efforts to rebuild it.

The leader president, may God protect him, ordered the formation of a ministerial committee, made up of some specialists and technicians, to conduct a field study, along with Dhi Qar Governorate officials, of the requirements of the Suq al-Shuyukh District and its neighboring areas of basic services and [words indistinct] priority of implementation.

His excellency the president, may God protect him, also ordered the allocation of additional amounts of money to be spent on developing services in the district and the neighboring areas. Furthermore, he ordered that efforts be made to embark on the implementation of additional service projects to serve the citizens in accordance with available resources.

In this regard, the leader president said: The most important thing which our citizens should know is that our country's revenues are theirs. This has always been the case. Our role is only to serve as custodians of these revenues to ensure that they are received by deserving people.

## Saddam Cables Salih on Evacuation Anniversary

*JN3011103192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, on the 25th anniversary of the evacuation of the British colonialist forces from southern Yemen. The cable reads:

On the 25th anniversary of the evacuation of the British colonialist forces from southern Yemen, I am pleased to send to your excellency my heartfelt congratulations, wishing you and the brothers, the members of the Presidential Council and the Government of Yemen, good health and happiness, and the fraternal Yemeni people further progress, might, and prosperity.

## Saddam Congratulates Romania's Iliescu

*JN0112104292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Dec (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to Romanian President Ion Iliescu on his country's national day.

The cable says: On the national day of the Republic of Romania, we are pleased to extend to you our best congratulations. We also wish the friendly Romanian people continued progress and prosperity.

## Embargo Said To Cost Airline Over $500 Million

*JN3011190292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—The third conference for the Iraqi Airways general agents abroad today began its meetings, which will continue for three days.

Nur-al-Din Safi Hammadi, director general of Iraqi Airways and chairman of its board of directors, delivered a speech at the conference, reviewing the airways' activities and the losses it has sustained as a result of the unfair air embargo clamped on Iraq.

Hammadi noted that the losses the airline has sustained since the imposition of the blockade on Iraq and the air embargo imposed on Iraqi civilian planes were in excess of $500 million.

The Iraqi Airways director general urged the countries which are holding Iraqi planes at their airports to allow Iraq to maintain them in accordance with the decisions issued by the International Air Transport Association and to return these planes to Iraq so that they may contribute to the operations of transporting medicine and food to Iraq.

Afterward, the conferees, directors of the airline's offices in Bahrain, Yemen, Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, India, and Pakistan, discussed the possible contributions they could make to support the airways under the current circumstances in terms of maintaining cooperation and opening dialogue to find marketing outlets for Iraqi Airways in the areas of tourism and arranging visits to the holy shrines housing the remains of chaste imams in Iraq. [passage omitted]

## Disloyal Army Personnel To Be Demoted

*JN3011164092 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 22 Nov 92 p 1*

[Text] BABIL has learned that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] decided to pension off military personnel at one or two ranks lower than their current rank if they are found to be disloyal to the revolution or to its pan-Arab and national principles. Those to be pensioned off for this reason shall receive their normal retirement salaries, which will not be affected by the demotion.

The RCC decision authorizes the dismissal of military personnel when there is sufficient proof of their failure to observe military discipline and control as well as military honor.

## KDP's Barzani Interviewed on Federation, Plans

*NC0112103092 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 22 Nov 92 p 4*

[Interview with Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP, leader Mas'ud Barzani by AL-AKHBAR correspondent Nabil Zaki in Salah al-Din; date not given]

[Text] [Zaki] Why are you holding this conference [of Iraqi opposition groups in Salah al-Din]? What have the previous conferences of the Iraqi opposition achieved, and what results do you hope to achieve at this conference in Salah al-Din?

[Barzani] Several attempts were made in the past to form fronts and hold conferences of Iraqi opposition groups, but the situation back then was different in objective as well as subjective terms. The world is different now, as is the situation in Iraq.

The main goal of holding this conference is to assert Iraqi national unity and Arab-Kurdish brotherhood. The second goal is to build a new Iraq on parliamentary, pluralistic, and democratic foundations and put behind us the tragedies of the past.

A national Iraqi conference was held 16 to 19 June last year in Vienna and reached good decisions. It passed a clear and unambiguous decision concerning the Kurdish issue, endorsing the right of self-determination for the Kurdish people without secession from Iraq. In other words, the conference established the right for Kurdish self-determination within one Iraqi homeland. In that conference we stressed the need to bolster the national unity of the Iraqi people and uphold the equality of all citizens. We called for the formulation of constitutional guarantees to ensure Turkoman national, administrative, and cultural rights, as well as Assyrian administrative and cultural rights.

We have to say that if Kurdish self-determination is contingent on our not seceding from Iraq, the nature of the regime that rules Baghdad will have to be radically different from what it is now. Iraq should become a democratic, pluralistic, and parliamentarian country, not one that is run by a dictatorship or one party.

The Kurdish issue has generally embarked on a new course following the Vienna conference. Kurdish delegations were received at the highest levels in the United States, the United Kingdom, and numerous other countries, including Egypt.

We have found it necessary to stress this formula concerning the right of self-determination, in view of the fact that some influential opposition forces did not attend the Vienna conference, which is why the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] urged all groups to meet here in Salah al-Din from 23 to 27 September. Various groups took part in that meeting and decided to call for another expanded meeting, which you are now here to cover. Is this not some indication of the importance of the conference?

It was decided at the September meeting to form an executive body [hay'ah tanfidhiyah] to replace the current regime in Iraq. In other words, there has to be a general body [hay'ah 'amah] to elect a transitional national Iraqi council and an executive body to perform as government. We also need a presidential body of three, five, or seven members. This point is still subject to debate and the conference will decide on it. (The conference later decided in favor of a three-member presidential body.)

Our aim is to lay down the democratic foundation for the future Iraq. It is a great accomplishment for Kurdistan to host all the national forces of the Iraqi people. This is the first time for all Iraqi forces and currents to meet on liberated Iraqi soil.

[Zaki] On 4 October, only four weeks ago, the Iraqi Kurdistan Parliament issued a statement on federation. Many were surprised with your call for this federation, which, in my view, remains a vague concept. How can you explain this call for a federation when you oppose partitioning Iraq and demand a democratic Iraq with its Arabs and Kurds united? What, in your view, is the

difference between the federation system and the system of autonomy for the Kurdish people?

[Barzani] Our slogan was democracy for Iraq and autonomy for Kurdistan when the Kurdish people's revolution erupted in 1960. We upheld this slogan for more than 30 years. Many developments have since occurred in the world, and these developments should include the Kurdish people's cause.

We might need legal experts to explain the concept of a federation, but when we, the Kurds, speak about federation, we are demanding that we should be within Iraq. It is a more advanced concept than autonomy but is not outside the framework of Iraq. Even when the fighting against the Iraqi regime's forces was resumed in 1974, a committee was formed to study the federation plan for discussion in future negotiations, but the setback delayed the issue.

In our view and following its ratification by our parliament, federation is a good formula and the appropriate one for strengthening Iraqi national unity and for resolving domestic problems in a better way.

The federation formula is not secession, which is a partitioning of Iraq. What leads to partitioning Iraq is the use of chemical weapons, genocide campaigns, racial discrimination, and similar racist and chauvinistic (blind ethnic bigotry) measures. We have before us several experiments and examples of other peoples who united and developed after applying the system of federation, such as the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, Mexico, even India, and other countries that used to suffer from domestic conflicts and complicated problems. These conflicts and problems ended when federation was adopted.

In our view, federation would achieve equality for all citizens in Iraq. As you know, the Kurdish problem has unique features. We are demanding federation for the Kurdish region. Concerning the other parts of Iraq, this is an Iraqi internal affair. I cannot see the reason for all this clamor from abroad about a federation. I have the right to confirm to you that we want to stay within Iraq, but within a democratic, free, and united Iraq. This is also the condition for us to stay within Iraq. Iraq can never be united as long as its regime is dictatorial or led by a single party. We, as Iraqis, underline our desire for national Iraqi unity. Federation is the formula that strengthens this unity, contrary to what some people believe. Federation is also the interpretation of the right to self-determination without seceding from Iraq.

[Zaki] All those who love the Kurdish people and support their struggle were dismayed with reports they heard on fighting between the Kurds of Iraq and Turkey. What is the cause of this clash? What are the differences between you and the Turkish Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK]?

[Barzani] We should correct this and say that it is not a fight between the Iraqi Kurds and the Turkish Kurds but a fight between the PKK gangs and the forces of the regional government in Iraqi Kurdistan. You might remember that when the military establishment staged a coup in Turkey in 1970 the situation there changed. What did we do? Despite all the difficulties we had to face, we opened our doors to all the Kurds of Turkey, including groups belonging to this party (the Turkish PKK) and gave them centers and offices so that they could carry on with their activities. We placed all our resources, including financial, at their disposal. We deprived our cadres and men of these resources to spend on that party. We were subjected to air and land attacks by the Turkish Army due to our support for this party known as the PKK [acronym printed in English], the Turkish Workers' Party of Kurdistan. We did not, however, retreat from this position, despite the security agreement concluded by the Turkish and Iraqi Governments that allowed each to advance up to 20 km on land and 40 km in airspace to chase and pursue the Kurds. We bore the brunt of the two countries' and armies' pressures, because we regarded members of that party as our brothers and gave them every possible support. Regrettably, however, we did not know them until we met with them.

[Zaki] How did they act here in Iraqi Kurdistan? How did relations between you and the PKK deteriorate?

[Barzani] We tried to influence their conduct to serve their cause. We told them: "Don't regard every Turk as your enemy and the enemy of your cause." We explained to them how we fought the Iraqi Government for 70 years but opposed every attempt to turn this war into a Kurdish-Arab one. We did not fight a people, and it was easy for us to explode bombs in Baghdad, but we never did so.

They (the Turkish PKK), however, kill anyone whose opinions differ from theirs. We used to discover the bodies of members who differed with their leaders thrown in corners of their bases. The PKK clashed with the Iraqi Communist Party and killed many of its members.

[Zaki] It would seem they have had a certain plan and a specific objective over recent years.

[Barzani] Yes, indeed. It is a problem. The group of Abdullah Ocalan (PKK leader) does not understand any language. We have obtained an "internal circular" from their leadership to their cadres that states that until 1986 they needed our support. Now, however, the KDP (led by Mas'ud Barzani) in Iraqi Kurdistan is posing a great threat to them and preventing their activity in Kurdistan. The way out of this—still according to the circular—is to provoke the Turkish Army into attacking them, and consequently, Iraqi Kurdistan would be trapped between the Turkish Army and the Iraqi Army. In 1987, we summoned their leaders and told them we knew about this serious document. We told them: "We helped you because we considered you as brothers. Now that you no longer need us—as you say—you can leave. We will not hurt you, but we will not help you anymore." They left.

accusing us of all sorts of things, but we ignored their insults and never responded to them. In 1989 they laid an ambush, captured six of our cadres, and handed them over to Iraqi intelligence! They consider all Kurdish parties anywhere as traitor parties unfit for any struggling action. They ally themselves with all intelligence services in the region and antagonize all Kurdish parties. Is it conceivable that all these parties are traitors while they alone are patriots? They are merely espionage networks cooperating with this or that intelligence service. Worshiping the individual is something of the past, and yet one of their leaders claims his ideas are fit for solving the problems of the world in the 21st century!

Here is a legitimate question: If the PKK's public slogan is the establishment of a greater Kurdistan, how can the party be supported by the countries that oppose Iraqi Kurdistan's demand for a federation? Do these countries oppose us because we call for a federation and support them, since they call for full independence for Kurdistan? Does this not mean that those who stand behind them seek to destroy the Kurdish movement?

[Zaki] It appears that the Abdullah Ocalan group receives support from countries that oppose even autonomy for the Kurds.

[Barzani] This is true.

[Zaki] What about the battles that are raging now?

[Barzani] What they are doing inside Turkey is their problem, and we have nothing to do with it. There are documents that revealed that there is cooperation between the Ocalan group and intelligence services of many countries aimed at destroying our status in Iraqi Kurdistan, aborting our democratic process, and attacking the Kurdish government and parliament. We have obtained documents confirming their collaboration with the Iraqi Government against the Kurdish movement. I will give you copies of these documents so that you can take them with you to Cairo.

The Iraqi regime displaced the populations of 4,500 villages in Kurdistan. The Ocalan group took advantage of the situation and occupied 300 villages following the Kurdish uprising that took place after the Gulf war. The Ocalan group prevented Iraqi Kurdish peasants from returning to their villages, thus creating an economic problem for us in addition to the social problem. Ocalan's men acted as if they were the authorities and started to control roads and collect taxes. They attacked remote areas and villages and arrested peshmergas (Iraqi Kurdish fighters), killing six of them without any legitimate cause.

Ocalan's men threatened to expel the government and parliament from Irbil. They said they would hang all those "who sold out the homeland." They even threatened to expel us from Duhuk and al-Sulaymaniyah and started to form espionage, terrorism, and sabotage networks inside cities. It has unequivocally been proven that they are conspiring and planning to undermine the existing situation in Kurdistan and its experiment.

We made strenuous efforts to make them return to the right path but to no avail. We told them that they are to either reside in areas to be specified by the local government in Kurdistan and conduct only political activities or execute military operations inside Turkey. If they opt for the latter, it will be their problem, not ours, and they must leave our areas. They say Kurdistan is one, which is true, but there are demarcation lines that are internationally recognized. We will only be responsible for this side of the border.

The Kurdish cause has been accused of harboring terrorism due to their deeds. Instead of fighting the Turkish Army, they are killing children and women. It is enough to know that 90 percent of their victims are Iraqi Kurdish children and women, and the remaining 10 percent represent troops of the Turkish Army.

Matters have reached the point where we find ourselves facing two options: either surrender to them and leave the region, or force them to respond to the appeal made by the parliament and government, particularly parliament's decision that all peasants should be allowed to return to their residential areas on the border strip. They cut the Zakho-Batufah road and set up bases on the (Baykhir) and (Matin) mountains.

The government of the Kurdistan region warned them that they should either move to the areas specified for them or leave the area. They challenged the government and attacked the peshmerga forces. We had to order the peshmergas to defend themselves and return the peasants to their villages, which is what actually happened. We did not order them to destroy them. We only instructed the peshmergas to make them understand that they cannot defy the government's authorities and the parliament of Kurdistan.

[Zaki] You once said you oppose changing the Iraqi regime at the hands of non-Iraqis. Do you still hold this view?

[Barzani] Yes. I still believe in this. I did not travel abroad or attend any meeting or conference before making sure that any change would be effected by the Iraqi people and that the Kurdish issue or the opposition would not be used. We want to agree on a specific goal—the establishment of a democratic, parliamentary, and multiparty Iraq ruled by law—not on the replacement of a dictatorship by another one.

[Zaki] I have heard many complaints here, in Iraqi Kurdistan, about the high prices of essential commodities and the high cost of living. I have also heard that you will request lifting the economic embargo against northern Iraq. What is the latest on this? Why do you not demand an end to the blockade against the whole country, especially since Iraq's poor, not rulers, are the ones suffering from this two-year blockade?

[Barzani] I am very pained to read daily about the suffering of the Iraqi people. We are calling for lifting the blockade against the Iraqi people and for ensuring the arrival of foodstuffs and medicines for the Iraqi people whether through the United Nations or any other international organization. The starvation of the Iraqi people never makes us happy.

[Zaki] What about developing the Kurdish economy after the destruction caused by the war? What about the organization of the political, economic, and social life of the Kurdish people?

[Barzani] The infrastructure in Kurdistan has been completely destroyed. For the picture to become clear, one should remember that the Kurdish region has been neglected ever since the Iraqi state was established. Apart from a cement factory in al-Sulaymaniyah, a sugar factory in the same city—no longer operational—a textile factory in Irbil, and a tobacco factory in Irbil, we do not have significant industrial facilities. We lack the industrial base. The region has been deliberately neglected. We used to have an agricultural base consisting of village peasants, but the Iraqi regime destroyed 4,500 out of the 5,000 villages in Kurdistan. Agricultural and animal resources have been destroyed, and millions of sheep have perished. Agricultural production has stopped and trade between the countryside and cities has collapsed. Our people need foreign assistance for one or two years before production can be restored. Our citizens are now consumers, not producers, which is the result of the policy of displacement and destruction and being forced to live in housing complexes. We are now working hard to encourage our citizens to move toward production, even if through loans. The Kurdish region is very rich; it has everything, but we need productive projects and assistance to rebuild villages.

Politically, we held elections in our region in May, and a local government was formed. We are still trying to make the law the absolute ruler. We are trying to end the rule of the militias and to turn the parties into political entities fighting only inside the parliament, with a democratic method and under the supremacy of the law.

[Zaki] How many Kurds do you think were killed by the present Iraqi regime?

[Barzani] Certainly no fewer than 180,000 or 200,000. Many Kurds were also killed by chemical weapons. The number of our victims prior to the "al-Anfal" operation, which was carried out by the Iraqi Government in five campaigns after the end of the war with Iran in 1988, was about 50,000 dead. This number, however, has increased enormously since the "al-Anfal" operation.

[Zaki] Do you expect any changes in U.S. policy toward the Kurds should Clinton win the presidential elections?

[Barzani] I don't think so. I met with Albert Gore, the vice presidential candidate, in Washington last July. He affirmed that there will be no change in U.S. policy toward the Kurdish problem should the Democratic candidate win the elections.

[Zaki] What about relations with Egypt?

[Barzani] We are aware of the importance of Egypt and its past and present roles. We strive to have strong relations with Egypt. Many Arab states in the region knew nothing about the Kurdish cause in the early sixties except for Egypt, which used to welcome the Kurdish revolution representative. When the quadripartite aggression was launched by the governments of Baghdad, Tehran, Ankara, and Damascus against us in 1963, Egypt stood against this aggression and supported the Kurdish revolution.

Egypt has recently imposed a blackout on news reports about the Kurdish cause. It has also supported the Iraqi regime when this regime was annihilating the Kurdish people. This is not the stand that we would expect from Egypt. We aspire to establish the strongest relations with Egypt. I met with the Egyptian ambassadors in Washington, London, and Paris. A KDP delegation also visited Cairo. We hope to establish the best possible relations with Egypt. We are confident that these relations will serve the Kurdish cause in the future.

I hope that you will propose an idea of holding an Arab-Kurdish seminar in Cairo to allow Egyptian and Kurdish intellectuals to exchange opinions.

## Regime Charged With Planting Bombs in Aid Trucks

*NC3011171492 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] On the night of 29 November, three trucks transporting foodstuffs from Turkey to Kurdistan exploded in front of the UN office in Irbil. After interrogating the truck drivers, a spokesman for the security authorities in Irbil said that it has been proved that the Baghdad regime's espionage agencies planted time bombs inside these trucks. The drivers said that the regime's authorities stopped the trucks on the (al-Khazir) bridge in (Kalak Yasin Agha) area and took the drivers away from the trucks. This cowardly act did not cause any casualties.

## Iraqi Diplomat Reportedly Joins Opposition

*NC3011172092 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Nasir Mahmud, first secretary of Saddam's mission to the United Nations in Geneva and private interpreter to the criminal Barzan al-Tikriti, has joined the Iraqi opposition ranks. Our sources abroad report that Nasir Mahmud resigned his post after he felt he could not continue practicing terrorism and serving the lowly Barzan. He told our sources that he will disclose serious secrets about Barzan al-Tikriti's crimes. He promised that these secrets will be published in a book of memoirs. [passage omitted]

### Foreign Ministry Denies Peres-Al-Shar' Meeting

*TA3011211992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] The newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, which is issued in London, writes today that an attempt is being made in Western and Arab capitals to organize a meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Syrian counterpart, Farug al-Shar'. The report states that the intention is to organize the meeting before the resumption of the talks in Washington next week in order to reach a document of understanding on the Golan Heights, according to the Syrian view of the withdrawal issue.

Our correspondent Ya'el Nir has learned from the foreign minister's office that they have no knowledge of such a meeting.

### GPO Revokes Press Credentials of 2 Reporters

*TA0112113592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] The press credentials of two foreign correspondents have been withdrawn by the Government Press Office [GPO] for breaking censorship regulations on the story of the training accident at Ze'elim. The two are Carol Rosenberg of THE MIAMI HERALD and Ian Black of the British newspaper THE GUARDIAN.

According to the head of the GPO, four other foreign correspondents will be called in by the military censor to receive what was called a formal warning. The four are the correspondents of the London TIMES, THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, and THE INDEPENDENT. GPO head Uri Dromi said that the suspension of Rosenberg and Black is for an indefinite period.

### Peres Views German Violence

*TA3011163092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1413 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Address by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres before the Knesset plenum in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] The flames that gutted the Jewish memorial in Sachsenhausen; the fire that burned Yeliz, a 10-year-old Turkish girl, to death; the schnapps with which a German man from Wuppertal was set afire because the skinheads thought he was Jewish—all these awful flames rekindle in our memories the terrible fire the likes of which mankind had never known before: The Holocaust fire that incinerated the lives of millions of people and destroyed the lives of one-third of our people. A deathly fire which will never be extinguished in our memories, the fire of death which showed us all that the nature of the danger cannot be fathomed by logic but only through experience. Even today, there is no logic that can explain the gas chambers. Therefore, it is doubtful that we can base ourselves solely on logic when confronting a new future.

Anti-Semitism is not a Jewish problem. It is more the problem of the gentiles. We see that there are living anti-Semites who continue to battle against dead Jews. We see that anti-Semitism exists even in places where there are no Jews. Anti-Semitism is a mad disease and insanity is not the continuation of logic but a deviation from it. Every nation with lunatics must combat the disease itself as well as its carriers. The Jewish people are the most sensitive barometer for the level of insanity in society. Nobody can allay our fears when the mercury in our anti-Semitic barometer rises. In 1991 there were 61 violent attacks against Jews worldwide, as opposed to 46 in 1990. There were another 250 threats, arson cases, and incidents of property damage. The number of incidents in 1992 has already reached 100.

Throughout Europe, there are over 1,000 organizations of an anti-Semitic nature. We witness this phenomenon taking place on European soil, as well as outside Europe, and when anti-Semitism, racism, or the rhetoric of depraved individuals begins to resound anywhere, we must look at both sides: at the lunatics and at those who are waging war against this insanity. Our expectations are directed first and foremost at the latter. We expect those fighting the madness not to hesitate, belittle, put off, or shy away. We expect them to employ all possible measures to uncover the head of the serpent before it can spread its venom.

We are especially shocked by the neo-Nazi phenomena in Germany. We also see the thousands of Germans who took to the streets to demonstrate against the resurgent Nazi crime. We appreciate them for this, and we also appreciate the German government officials and opposition leaders who marched at their head. We appreciate the trade union leaders, the captains of industry, the intellectuals, and youths who rushed to confront the danger, which threatens the very freedom and image of united Germany, no less than it threatens the victims of this phenomenon.

However, as long as these incidents continue, we cannot relax our vigilance or cease our loud protests. The Israeli Government will clearly and unapologetically demand that all measures be employed to uproot this phenomenon. We do this out of responsibility, not out of fear. We know that if anyone tries to become a new Hitler, he will find a new world arrayed against him—a world in which Germany, or any other country, cannot again achieve exclusive military supremacy. Any country which permits itself to willingly attack others, will quickly discover that it is also vulnerable to attack. There is no more room today for Ueber Alles [preceding two words in German]. Any country founded on hatred and arrogance will find itself hated and isolated. Any country which tries to ignore the new economic reality, which is more international than national, will discover its own economy facing the threat of heavy retaliation.

We hope that any Nazi organization that attempts to rear its head will find itself challenged by a determined German democracy, a democracy which is the fruit of both freedom and repentance.

As for us, the Jewish state, we shall not allow Jewish blood to be shed with impunity. We shall not remain indifferent to the fate of Jews wherever they are. Who knows? Perhaps if the Jewish state, with all we have today, had existed during the Holocaust, perhaps the Holocaust itself could have been prevented, or at least limited to a smaller scope. We do not intend to beg for mercy, just as our hearts do not bear blind hatred. We want to be sure that there is a new world and a different Germany.

We therefore appeal to the German authorities and people not to give this insanity any chance or offer anti-Semitism any purchase. We demand that the existing laws be implemented and that additional laws be legislated. We demand that all those who endanger the legitimacy of man's very existence be placed outside the law. The blood of our brothers is crying to us from the ground, and we will echo their cries faithfully, painfully, and loudly in an uncompromising manner. We will continue to do this as long as the horrors of the past throw their ghastly shadow on the present, and for as long as attempts are made to cast their poisonous nature upon the future. We have also made our positions clear to the German Government.

## Updates on Action Against Neo-Nazis Demanded

*TA0112100192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Dec 92 p A1*

[Report by Yerah Tal, Daniyel Dagan, and Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has instructed Israel's Ambassador in Bonn Binyamin Navon to demand regular updates from the German Government about all the measures it is taking against neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic organizations.

The ambassador was also instructed to deliver in person to leading German cabinet ministers the text of the Israeli Government decision of 29 November which denounced neo-Nazi actions against foreigners and Jews and demanded that Bonn deal with them with utmost severity. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Navon said that Jerusalem wants to uphold the dialogue with Germany. He stressed that Israel knows very well that most Germans support democracy and that the neo-Nazi groups are a marginal phenomenon. Nevertheless, Navon added, Israel expects Germany to take firm action to put an end to the anti-Semitic incidents and the violence against foreigners.

In an internal debate yesterday, the Foreign Ministry reviewed measures it will propose to the cabinet if Bonn fails to act against the extreme right-wing organizations or stop their activities. Following are some of the possibilities discussed:

—Peres would summon the German ambassador in Israel and hand him Israel's sharp protest.

—The Israeli ambassador in Bonn would be recalled to Israel for 48 hours for briefings or consultations.

—The Israeli ambassador would be recalled for a longer period of time in a bid to underscore its sharp protest.

In the meeting it was decided that, at this point, Israel should make do with the cabinet communique and the demand for regular updates, in view of the German Government's having outlawed the neo-Nazi organizations and the indications that it is intensifying its activities against them. [passage omitted]

## Peres Interviewed on Relations with France

*PM3011112492 Paris LE FIGARO in French 26 Nov 92 p 3*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres by Pierre Rousselin; place and date not given]

[Text] [Rousselin] You have described President Mitterrand's visit as a "historic moment" in relations between the two countries. Is it primarily in the economic sphere that you are expecting a rapprochement?

[Peres] There is a good chance of establishing very close economic relations between Israel and France. Our trade is already on a large scale. Our imports from France total $900 million each year and our exports $700 million. The aim is to double this trade in the next five years. That would increase trade to $4 billion per year. That is a considerable amount.

We have started a number of very interesting projects—the creation of a joint fund for scientific and industrial research, the preparation of a transport plan for Israel and the Near East in the next 10 years. We are negotiating for the provision of computers to the Israeli school system and, finally, we envisage an agreement in the health sphere.

[Rousselin] In addition to these plans, is it peace in the Near East which can restore the "golden age" which we experienced in Franco-Israeli relations before the Six Day War?

[Peres] The question we must ask is not "what is the cost of peace?" but rather "what result will peace have?" Are the characteristics of the Near East once peace is restored not more important than the question of territorial borders? If our objective is simply to draw borders between ourselves and the Arab countries, it is very little. In Europe, borders did not prevent wars. But the transformation of relations between the countries has made it

possible to establish a political and economic structure which is much richer than the national divisions of the past.

**An Enormous Investment**

[Rosenfeld] People in France sometimes have the impression that Israel is relying on the United States to reach a peace agreement and only expects Europe to pay the bill....

[Peres] Not at all. First, there are two different negotiations. On the one hand, the bilateral negotiations which aim to solve the problems of the past. In this sphere the United States is playing a predominant role. Second, there are the multilateral negotiations. The aim in these is to build the Near East of the future and the Europeans have a role to play in that.

It is not just a question of money. Arms control is a question of wisdom, experience, and philosophy. It is a very important problem. Let us take the question of water which is also handled in the framework of the multilateral talks. Who will benefit most from the projects envisaged—the French economy, the European economy, or the Near East economy? To desalinate sea water for instance, a nuclear power station will have to be built.

We will also have to establish a whole railroad network. It is a mistake to think that Europe will pay the bill. Quite the reverse: Europe will find the opportunity for an enormous investment in a region in which it already has considerable economic interests.

[Rosenfeld] In the political sphere, President Mitterrand is convinced that the PLO must play a role in the peace process....

[Peres] The problem is whether it is the PLO or democracy which will play a role in the peace process. We think that democracy must play the central role. We have told the Palestinians two things. First, you have the right to consult whoever you wish, without limitation. This is a change. This must not be forgotten. Second, we told them: Go and elect your leaders openly, freely, and democratically. We Israelis do not intend to choose 'Arafat. We are in favor of elections. It is the Palestinians in the territories themselves who will elect their leaders.

[Rosenfeld] Do you think that French diplomacy can help Israel to convey this message?

[Peres] Undoubtedly. We are not against the Palestinian people. Our disagreements only concern the positions which are adopted.

[Rosenfeld] You have long had a personal friendship with Francois Mitterrand. At what time have you felt closest to him?

[Peres] The most important time for me was when he became leader of the French Socialist Party. Shared ideological views were then added to the personal admiration I had for him. His political strategy which made it possible to completely change the balance between the Communists and Socialists in France is one of the most significant events of our day.

But I also consider Francois Mitterrand to be a friend of Israel and the Jewish world. Of the French and European leaders, he is the one who knows the Jews and Jewish history best. He has visited Israel eight times, more than anybody else. He has always taken very courageous positions against anti-Semitism in France; he changed France's nuclear policy toward Iraq. He spoke out against the Arab boycott of Israel. Finally, he is now taking the initiative of opening a new chapter in relations between France and Israel.

## Amendment Submitted to Antiterrorist Law

*TA3011185992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] The government today brought before the Knesset a proposed amendment to the antiterrorist law that would permit contacts with the PLO unless they endanger state security. Justice Minister David Libai's rejects claims that the move will give a green light to the United States and other countries to open a dialogue with the PLO. David Ze'evi reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'evi] Has Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin succumbed to the pressures of his more dovish cabinet ministers and Knesset members [MK's]? The official line was that Israel wanted first to explain to the new American Administration the implications of changing the antiterror law, that it does not mean an Israeli endorsement to negotiate with the PLO. Today the government brought the amendment before the Knesset, hoping for a vote on the first of three readings Wednesday [2 December], but Justice Minister David Libai would not respond directly when asked today whether in fact Israel has explained the move to the Americans.

[Libai] It seems to me that we had the opportunity and we would have the opportunity. Anyhow, it was a decision of the cabinet, as you know, and of the government, that we shall submit the bill to the Knesset now, this week.

[Ze'evi] The justice minister rejected the notion that the United States might view today's move as an Israeli sign of approval to reopen its dialogue with the PLO.

[Libai] This is up to the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government does not depend on the way a crime is defined within the books of the State of Israel.

[Ze'evi] There is another factor for the government to take into account. A race against time, and the private member's bill of MK 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah. Justice Minister Libai says the government wants its bill to come up first, because while Darawshah's is identical to

the government's version, the government does not support Dayan/Eitan's explanation. The Arab MK favors negotiations with the PLO. [end recording]

## Paper Notes Change in Policy on Palestinian Issue

*TA0112112792 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Dec 92 p 9*

[Commentary by Pinhas Inbari: "On the Way to Unraveling the Knot"]

[Text] It is hard not to be impressed by the change in Israel's policy toward the Palestinian issue. Although he diverted the attention of his audience when he likened the PLO to the Zionist Federation, in his address to Israeli newspaper editors two days ago Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin basically—and for the first time—legitimized the PLO or some of its factions. When an Israeli prime minister stops treating the PLO as if it were a single bloc, something monstrous, demonic, and a Nazi offshoot, and is willing to distinguish between the factions (some good and some bad) composing it, this means that Israel's policy toward the Palestinians has matured and is even on the verge of a revolution in its understanding of events in the region and in finding its way in the Middle East maze. The inability and unwillingness to do that in the past steered Israel into dead ends, such as the Lebanon war.

In principle, Rabin made the right distinction: PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is having a hard time allowing the Palestinian delegation to accept Israel's proposals because he fears for the PLO's historic status. Rabin ruled 'Arafat out in his speech two days ago, but the way he did it for the first time gave legitimacy to the pragmatic faction of Fatah, currently led by Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and Nabil Sha'th, which supports progress toward peace. The question is whether, despite his correct distinctions, Rabin did the right thing when he disqualified 'Arafat.

Rabin is an Israeli prime minister and not a neutral commentator. By siding with the progressives in Fatah he pushed them into a corner, seeing that the classical PLO will use his statements in their favor against them.

One of the reasons for the change in Rabin's positions is his recognition that the Islamic threat posed by all the manifestations of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is far more serious than that of Palestinian nationalism. Islamic fundamentalism threatens the PLO, Israel, and the pro-Western Arab countries, led by Egypt and Jordan, and actually turns them into allies.

The new order of priorities is making contacts, albeit slow progress. The modest gestures toward the Palestinians in the territories have gathered momentum, to the point that PLO member Muhammad al-Hallaj was accepted as head of the Palestinian delegation to the conference on refugees and journalists were allowed to interview 'Arafat in Tunis. As far as we could gather from Jerusalem, Israel also plans to withdraw its objection to the participation of Palestinians in the multilateral committee on arms control.

Nevertheless, as far as could be ascertained from political sources in Jerusalem, no full thought has yet been given to the significance of the turnabout in its policy on the Palestinian issue. Although the distinction between the various PLO factions indicates maturity, Jerusalem does not yet understand the meaning of supporting one faction or another and how these distinctions will affect the Palestinian delegation. Neither does it completely understand the implications that support for a particular PLO faction might have with regard to Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

No thought has yet been given to the significance the opening of a channel of dialogue with the PLO or any of its factions would have on solving the refugee problem, seeing that the PLO advocates the right of return. Has an attempt been made to locate circles within the PLO that would be ready to go for solutions of such a sensitive issue that might be acceptable to Israel? As far as could be ascertained from circles in Jerusalem, this has not yet been done.

Israel is on the verge of a new era that will be as decisive for it as it will be for the Palestinians, and it should prepare itself accordingly.

## 13-Year-Old Killed by Army Gunfire in Gaza

*TA0112091392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] 'Amar Yusuf Abu-Sharah, a 13-year-old boy from Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, was killed this morning by shots fired by the security forces when dispersing a riot. He was hit in the head and neck and died in the hospital.

Gaza residents told our correspondent Meir Amir that the youth's body was snatched from the hospital.

The riot broke out this morning after the Army lifted the curfew on al-Shaykh Radwan and on the al-Shati' refugee camp. The curfew was imposed on Saturday night following disturbances.

## Security Forces Uncover Islamic Jihad Cell

*TA0111181192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] The Shin Bet and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in Judaea and Samaria have uncovered a terrorist cell belonging to the Islamic Jihad whose members are responsible are responsible for last month's terrorist attack near the settlement of Mattityahu, in which Yehudit Ozeyri was killed and all the other passengers of a commercial van were injured when the van burst into flames after a roadside charge exploded.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a terrorist from the Jenin area recruited several residents of al-Safi who planted the charge. In the course of the investigation, the Shin Bet uncovered several other Islamic Jihad terrorist cells under the leadership of Fathi al-Shiqaqi, who has been operating from Syria after being deported from the Gaza Strip four years ago.

So far, approximately 30 members of the organization have been arrested in Hebron, Ramallah, and the Samaria area, including some of the Islamic Jihad's top officials in the territories. During their interrogation, the terrorists divulged the hiding places of explosive charges to the authorities.

### Jordan Held Responsible for Quiet Along Border

*TA30111042 92 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Excerpts] Jordan is responsible for maintaining quiet and stability along the border. This was stated by senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] elements in the wake of today's shooting incident, which was the first such incident along the Israeli-Jordanian border this year. Our army affairs correspondent Ne'eman'el Semerik reports:

An increase has been felt in recent months in terrorist activity across the Jordanian border, with an average of more than one incident every month. [passage omitted]

A shooting incident such as this morning's, however, has not occurred this year. The last such incident took place in September 1991, near Kibbutz Sha'ar Hagolan, and nobody was hurt then. For the time being, it is unclear who opened fire at the IDF observation post, slightly wounding a soldier, but IDF officers said this morning that they take a very grave view of the incident. According to them, it is Jordan that is responsible for maintaining quiet and stability on Israel's eastern border.

### 'Survey Shows Settlement Efforts 'Failed'

*TA30111220 92 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Excerpts] The Peace Now movement today published the results of a demographic-geographical survey it conducted in the territories. According to the report, the Jewish population in the territories constitutes only about six percent of the total number of people living there. Peace Now officials claimed that the presence of the Jewish settlers in the territories was a provocation that led to the outbreak of the intifadah. They added that the settlements had no security value. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports.

With the publication of a comprehensive demographic-geographical survey on population trends in the territories, the Peace Now movement declares that the settlement effort in the territories has failed. Despite unprecedented investments which have amounted to 15 billion shekels since 1967, only 110,000 Jewish residents live in the territories today, and constitute a mere six percent of the general population. The report puts the number of Palestinian residents at 1,900,000, with a natural birthrate of 5 percent. There is almost no Palestinian emigration.

Peace Now demands that the government declare that the interim accord is designed to lead to the end of Israeli control over the Palestinian people, and that this be given adequate territorial expression. They also demand an end to discrimination in the territories. Peace Now's calculations of land allocations per capita indicate that the settlers received seven times more land than the Palestinians. In Gaza, for example, the settlers received 13 times more water for agricultural purposes than the Arabs. [passage omitted]

Peace Now claims the survey's findings clearly show that the settlers are torpedoing any arrangement, in the hope of forcing the Palestinians to leave under the pretext of a war. The settler's struggle is disguised as opposition to autonomy. Peace Now noted that the settlers' provocative presence was partly responsible for the Palestinians' popular uprising.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip retorted that the Peace Now movement constantly alters the facts depending on its political needs. When the Likud was in power, the Council claimed, Peace Now activists published inflated figures when reporting on Jewish settlements, and now they were trying to bring the numbers down. That is apparently the nature of a protest movement that has nothing but protest to offer, the Council said.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT on 30 November adds that "the Peace Now movement claims that a trend of positive Palestinian migration into the territories has been noted over the past two years. The population rose by 2.5 percent in 1990, and by 9 percent in 1991. According to a survey published by the Peace Now movement, the number of Palestinians in the territories will top the 2 million mark in 1993."]

### Distorted Land Division Noted

*TA01210179 2 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Dec 92 p A3*

[Report by Lili Galili]

[Excerpt] A Peace Now report released yesterday contends that although there are 94 Palestinians to every six settlers in the territories, only 6 percent of the land in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank is held by Palestinians according to the Civil Administration's definition of residential areas. The Israeli Government controls some 60 percent of the total area of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (6 million dunam).

Some 275,000 dunam in the West Bank and 50,000 dunam in the Gaza Strip constitute Palestinian land in

residential areas, while another 2 million dunams in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip constitute Palestinian agricultural land.

Presenting these data at a news conference yesterday, Peace Now leaders noted the distortion in the division of land as one of the obstacles impeding progress in the peace negotiations.

According to Peace Now, at this stage the Palestinians have been promised self-rule over a total area of only 325,000 dunams. This was the conclusion Peace Now members reached after meeting with Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks being held in Washington with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. [passage omitted]

## Settlement Council Responds

*TA0112112492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Dec 92 p A3*

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Excerpt] "Peace Now is an organization that does not give top priority to the facts but rather focuses on its own narrow political viewpoint, depending on where its interests lie." This accusation was leveled by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip as part of its official reaction to the settlement data published by the Peace Now movement yesterday.

"When the Likud was in power," the council claimed, "Peace Now inflated its figures regarding construction in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in order to prove that the government was holding back the peace process, whereas now, when Labor and Meretz hold the reigns of government, Peace Now is ashamed to be part of a government that is continuing work on 10,000 housing units in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. That is why it is trying to bring the numbers down." According to the figures quoted by the council in its communique, the Jewish population in the territories has doubled since the intifadah began and now numbers 126,430 people compared with only 61,815 in December 1987.

The council communique contains a table with figures on Jewish population growth in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip over each one of the five years since the intifadah started. According to this table, the highest growth rate in the number of Jews—328 percent—took place within the area of the Har Hevron Regional Council. This is followed by Oranit—209.1 percent; Hebron—190 percent; Efrat—155 percent; 'Imanu'el—152.2 percent; Ari'el—145.3 percent; 'Elyaqu Blec—130.3 percent. On the other hand, the same table noted relatively low population growth rates in the following regional and local councils: Shomron —a mere 30.1 percent; Megilot—27.3 percent; Ma'ale Efrayim—34.1 percent; Alfey Menashe—75.4 percent; Biq'at Hayarden—61 percent. The total growth rate between December 1987 and October 1992, according to the council's table, was 104.5 percent.

"Our statistical facts," the council stated, "are based on the figures submitted by the local councils and settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. These are figures to which Peace Now has no access, and that is why their numbers lag behind developments in the field. Neither Arab violence nor Peace Now's attempt to suppress our pioneering spirit by presenting a distorted picture of the settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip can prevent Jews from returning to settle Eretz Yisra'el." [passage omitted]

## Survey Views Public Attitude Toward Settlers

*TA2911132592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] A survey commissioned by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip shows that 42 percent of the public identify with the settlers and sympathize with them. Some 31 percent oppose the settlers and say their way is unacceptable.

The survey also shows that 20 percent of the public identify or sympathize with Peace Now while 53 percent oppose it or consider its ideology unacceptable. The survey was conducted by the Smith Institute and encompassed over 1,000 Jewish citizens of Israel.

The Peace Now spokesman said in reply to our correspondent Gil Leeman that the latest general elections indicated with whom the Israeli public identifies, especially on the settlement issue.

## French President Pays Official Visit

### Mitterrand Arrives

*JN2711152292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Amman a short while ago on an official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The visit is in response to an invitation from His Majesty King Hussayn and an expression of the unique relationship between the two great leaders, who have strengthened the foundations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. These relations are based on mutual respect and trust.

His Majesty King Hussayn led the delegation receiving his excellency the French president when he arrived at Amman airport. His excellency the president was accorded a big official welcome starting with a 21-gun-salute for Jordan's great guest. Afterward, the French and and Jordanian national anthems were played. His Majesty King Hussayn and His Excellency French President Mitterrand then reviewed the honor guard.

### Talks Begin

*JN2711185392 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Excerpts] Official talks between the Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Hussayn, and the French side, led by His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand, began at al-Hashimiyah Palace this evening.

Our reporter at al-Hashimiyah Palace sent us this report a short while ago: Official talks between the Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Hussayn, and the French side, led by His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand began at al-Hashimiyah Palace in an Amman suburb this evening. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas have also held an official round of talks, which discussed means of enhancing bilateral relations and the latest developments in the bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations, as well as the role that France can play to support the peace process. [passage omitted]

### Sessions Called 'Frank and Positive'

*JN2711192092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] His Majesty King Hussayn and His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand held a session of bilateral talks at al-Hashimiyah Palace this evening. The session was frank and positive.

During the session, the two leaders discussed ways of bolstering the deep relations of friendship and cooperation which link the two friendly countries, as well as cooperation in the political, cultural, scientific, and economic fields.

The two leaders discussed the current international situation and issues in the region, primarily the peace process in the Middle East and ways of enhancing and bolstering it to contribute to global security and stability and achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace for the peoples of the region, based on UN resolutions and international legitimacy.

### Hussayn Gives Dinner Speech

*JN2811080392 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2103 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Speech by Jordan's King Hussayn at a dinner banquet in honor of visiting French President Francois Mitterrand in Amman on 27 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency President Francois Mitterrand, esteemed audience: With great pleasure and profound delight and happiness, I welcome you, your wife, and the accompanying delegation as dear guests and friends to whom we harbor great love, appreciation, and respect.

I and [Queen] Nur, who joins me in welcoming you and in expressing pleasure at your presence among us in dear Jordan, wish to greet through you—in the name of the people and Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan—the friendly French people, with whom we have strong ties and relations of which we are proud, hoping these ties and relations will reach the highest levels. You are welcome in our country as dear guests who deserve every degree of hospitality and honor.

Your Excellency the President: The positive and growing relations between our two friendly countries throughout the past decades have been a good example of how relations should be among friendly nations and civilized countries. These relations are based on trust, mutual understanding, and understanding for the sake of our two friendly nations' well-being, for the sake of development and stability, and for the achievement of world security and peace.

I would like to note our achievements attained through joint cooperation in the various fields of development and culture, particularly in the areas of communications, culture, arts, and science. I am confident that the good relations that exist between our two countries will continue to grow, expand, and prosper, because they aim to serve our joint interests and are based on international principles, sublime human values, and noble objectives which take their roots from the Arab and French civilizations and contribute to human civilization, especially in culture, thought, and creativity.

I cannot fail to note the valued support France has extended to Jordan. You have spared no effort in supporting us during the difficult circumstances our country and region went through—circumstances over which we had no control, even though we were among those most affected by their results. The position we occupy in this region might be one of the most important factors which place on us humanitarian, moral, and historic responsibilities dictated by principles.

Mr. President: Since the first years of its inception, Jordan has upheld its pan-Arab message. Our fathers struggled for the homeland's independence and the nation's unity. Throughout the past 40 years, I have struggled for the development and progress of my homeland and for the Arabs' unity and renaissance as well. As for the democratic experience in Jordan, it is taking root. We are concerned with its nourishment and support. This concern is motivated by our firm belief in the values of justice, freedom, equality, and respect for human rights, which emanate from our nation's heritage, its inherent message, and its great humane role. These are the very noble values cherished and treasured by the French revolution. Our faith in the democratic course is merely an embodiment of the spirit and substance of our Constitution. This faith is also inspired from the concord reached by Jordanians as spelled out in the National Charter, which was endorsed in a general national consensus and blessed by all sectors of the people, regardless of the disparate views and beliefs they embrace and the various schools of thought and ideology they espouse, since all these views, beliefs, and schools of thought only pour into the cohesive national and democratic melting pot of the country.

Thanks to this course, we have managed to unleash the Jordanians' creative and innovative potentials. Thus, the society's activity and vivacity have been nourished. Similarly, its ability to make sacrifices and to adjust to the challenges facing us acquired additional strength. Additionally, we have managed to accommodate the returnees from Kuwait, relying on our people's creative resources. Likewise, we managed to cope with many hurdles that faced us over recent years.

We seek, using all ways and means, to establish the foundations of a pioneering democratic experience in this region. We hope that this experiment will be a model and an example to be emulated. This is because we firmly believe that democracy, freedom, pluralism, and respect for human rights are rights for all nations without exception.

We hope that these principles would become, the way they are here, the irrevocable choice for everybody. This is because achieving such principles is the best guarantee for coexistence and cooperation regionally and internationally.

Your friendly country has made great political and economic achievements under your wise leadership, particularly within the framework of European unity. Moreover, France enjoys a significant position in the international arena and at international forums. This is clear in many bold diplomatic and political stands you adopt toward world events, particularly toward North-South relations and many issues in the world. You have personally made initiatives this do not only show the farsightedness and wisdom of the leadership, but also reflect your country's weight and importance. We welcome France's adoption of a balanced foreign policy aimed at bolstering stability and reinforcing world peace and security. From this premise, we are looking forward to your effective contributions toward achieving peace, security, and redevelopment in the Middle East, where Mediterranean states and peoples are linked with firm historical and geographic ties.

Your Excellency the President: Undoubtedly, you are aware of the disturbed situation in the Middle East and the suffering of its peoples which are caused by many things, foremost being Israeli occupation of Arab territories, violation of human rights, the widening of the gap between rich and poor, and the absence of democracy in many places. This state of confusion and suffering gained your personal interest and that of France a long time ago. Our joint interests and common faith in the values of justice, freedom, equality, and the importance of peace, have urged us to work together on several occasions to contain conflicts and tackle several crises, particularly within the framework of the United Nations and the Security Council, when Jordan's membership coincided with France's permanent presence in this esteemed international body in the early eighties. Cooperation between us yielded good fruit and has a positive effect on sensitive aspects of serious and complicated crises. We are pleased to see Jordan and France work together, through their diplomatic and military institutions, to serve peace and defend it throughout the world. The participation of our Jordanian Armed Forces in peacekeeping operations in many parts of the world, along with French forces, is an expression of our belief in all peoples' right to peace. This is also an assumption of our responsibilities toward maintaining world peace and security based on international legitimacy.

Your Excellency: While reiterating our adherence to our principled stands toward peace in the entire world, we believe, as you do, that peace is an indivisible whole, and that principles are the same. Based on this, world peace would remain deficient and international legitimacy absent, unless a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace is achieved in our region. Therefore, Israel's continuation of its occupation of Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and persisting in depriving the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination on their national soil constitute the fundamental cause for the absence of such peace. Israel's illegal practices against the Palestinians on the one hand, and its stands which sometimes lack courage and realism at the current peace negotiations on the other, cast shadows of doubts on the part of some regarding the possibility of achieving the objective of peace, which is accepted and safeguarded by future generations.

The vehicle Israel used to call for, that of direct negotiations, has now materialized within the framework of the Madrid conference on peace in the Middle East in both the bilateral and multilateral form. While we believe that a drastic change has taken place on the intellectual level with respect to the parties concerned in terms of the conviction of the need to move in a comprehensive and sedate manner to tackle all aspects of the conflict, the matter needs greater efforts and a more comprehensive and broader concept of the last available opportunity. A humanitarian catastrophe will be inevitable in case of despair and failure. This makes us accept the contributions of the friendly countries in this world, particularly those which assume responsibility toward world peace and security in accordance with the UN Charter, and which have experience and knowledge of the requirements of the stage—by displaying more of its positive role in order not to waste this unique opportunity which will not be repeated.

We in Jordan continue to support the Palestinian people and to respect their independent decisionmaking and choices under the PLO, their legitimate and sole representative, hoping that coexistence and understanding will take place, that justice will prevail, and that Jerusalem will once again become a symbol of peace and a pilgrimage site for all those who believe in God. This will take place through the respect for international legitimacy which is embodied in the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the Security Council; namely, Resolution 242, whose implementation is the objective of the current peace process which enjoys your personal support and that of France.

Your Excellency the President: Many issues in this region, and in countries which embarked on development after achieving their independence, are still unresolved. They need deep international and regional cooperation in various fields, particularly the issues of development, debt, environment, disarmament, achieving social justice, and—above all this—guaranteeing freedom, equality, and human rights to live with freedom, security, and honor. For all this, we should reinforce the existing cooperation between our countries to effectively assume their positive role on the regional and international levels.

I and Nur reiterate our happiness at your presence, and at the presence of your wife and the accompanying delegation, as dear guests in the land of Jordan and among its people. I wish you and your wife good health, happiness, and good stay among us. You are welcome, and I will always be proud of our genuine and strong friendship which is based on clarity and confidence.

O friends, please stand up to greet His Excellency Francois Mitterrand, president of the friendly Republic of France; his wife; the people of France; and, God willing, the lasting friendship between our people and two countries.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

## Mitterrand Gives Dinner Speech

*JN2811103292 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2120 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Speech by French President Francois Mitterrand at a dinner banquet hosted in his honor by Jordan's King Husayn in Amman on 27 November—recorded, in French with simultaneous translation into Arabic]

[Text] Your Majesties, Ladies and Gentlemen: Your Majesty, I would first like to sincerely thank you for your hospitality. I also thank you, Your Majesty the Queen, on the warm reception accorded us since we arrived in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This is our second visit, and we are very pleased to be among you. We still recall our previous, excellent visit. This is a very natural feeling toward a country such as your distinguished country, which has been enjoying such cultural heritage for a very long time, which was in the heart of the historical intellectual and religious currents which established the civilizations of our world and drew the features of the Mediterranean to which France also belongs. Jordan maintains traces of the sometimes-sad past. It also maintains the vivid memory of the deep-rooted civilizations which embraced three heavenly religions and all their tolerant values.

At the beginning of this century, the Great Arab Revolt, which was led by one of your great grandfathers, had actually constituted a new impetus in this region. Modern Jordan is the fruit of that historic movement whose heritage you knew how to maintain.

Your Majesty, you have been running the affairs of this modern state for 40 years. This country has prospered under your leadership despite all aspects of conflict and struggle. You have also added to the astonishing economic and social development under which we have seen a political dimension, the democratic process, and respect for individual rights.

Your country recently endured the direct and indirect burdens of the Gulf war. In addition to the military dangers, there were economic and social burdens. The difficulties did not cease with the end of hostilities. This difficult period, through which we passed, gave us, in fact, new opportunities to embody the cooperation between our countries and assume joint efforts to develop and encourage opportunities for stability in this region. This period also provided us with an opportunity to test the strength of bilateral relations and the confidence which prevails through these relations.

Since my last visit, we have been going ahead with developing and promoting bilateral relations. We reinforced cultural relations, particularly in the field of archaeology and audiovisual methods. Thank you, Your Majesty, for your decision to open a French radio channel. We recently embarked on medical cooperation.

The signing of an agreement to equate academic degrees [awarded in France and Jordan] facilitated the exchange of student visits between our two countries. We also promoted the exchange of visits between ranking military, diplomatic, and judicial officials. This is greatly linked with our high degree of political cooperation.

France's position is still based on principles I mentioned during my 1984 visit, and there is no need to recall them here. Many a time I have voiced these principles in the highest international platforms. In short, France believes that all peoples and countries—by all peoples, I mean the Israeli people, but also the Palestinian people, and by all countries I also mean the Israeli state—have a right to live under the canopy of systems of their own choice, within recognized and secure borders. The solution should be comprehensive.

If the Palestine question is ignored, the efforts being made, even if they were to yield any result, such a result would not be anything but a fragile peace. Of course, a true dialogue must take place between the parties concerned. This clearly presupposes the holding of a dialogue with the true representatives of the people. Lest people forget, I would also like to add that this principle also holds true for Lebanon.

The peace process launched in Madrid is proceeding in the right direction. It is true that we had not agreed to this mechanism and that we preferred another mechanism. However, I would like to repeat that it is better to see an unfolding process rather than a vacuum. Additionally, I would like to briefly say that peace achieved by slow or small steps is better than a state of no peace at all.

At any rate, messages are being relayed by this party and that. Moreover, measures are being taken to build confidence. Most often, these measures prove insufficient. However, we must reiterate that they are actually there. The recent meeting held in Paris on regional economic development is the best evidence that the desire for dialogue can yield results if it is allowed to materialize.

Any settlement between Israel and the Arab states might provide Jordan with a central position. By agreeing to actively engage itself in the bilateral and multilateral talks, Jordan has shown its desire for peace and reaffirmed this with the recent agreement on a draft agenda with the Israeli delegation. This could pave the way for reconciliation, for cooperation, and for guaranteeing security in throughout the region. In brief, Jordan is a necessary partner in any settlement. Our presence here—my visit to Amman—is the most cogent proof of this, as well as of our convictions in this regard.

A few last words on the Gulf region. The principles I have already noted are bound to apply there as well. There can be no stability in that region unless there is recognition of the right of all sides to coexist and exist within secure and recognized borders—borders respected by all. Clearly, this is the best foreign and diplomatic policy that can be espoused. Some people are afraid of what Iraq might do. If Iraq succumbs to the Security Council resolutions and if it recognizes that all sectors of the population will be allowed to live under the canopy of the authority responsible for them, this would expedite the attainment of peace and alleviate the Iraqi people's sufferings. Indeed, France wants to see the Iraqi people's harsh ordeal end with the lifting of the sanctions imposed on them. However, this is, first and foremost, contingent upon the Iraqi Government.

To further explain this host of principles regarding the Gulf situation, I would like to say that based on the endorsed measures, any partitioning of the state of Iraq is absolutely out of the question. In the first place, this scenario has not dawned on the mind of any of the heads of state I held talks with from among those who took part in the Gulf war. Once again, Your Majesty the King, I would like to reiterate that you and your noble country can play a decisive role in this region, which is suffering in the midst of conflicts.

There are many things about which I could have spoken. However, we must take care of other issues, such as this banquet, which is waiting for us.

Concluding my speech, I would like to make a gesture which is expected by all; that is, to drink to your health and your personal happiness, Your Majesties; to the health of all of your family members; and to the health of all your beloved ones. Since we are now the guests of the Jordanian people, I wish them a bright and radiant future under the canopy of peace and prosperity.

## Husayn-Mitterrand News Conference

*JN2811203192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1203 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[News conference by King Husayn and French President Francois Mitterrand with foreign and domestic reporters at al-Hashimiyah Palace in Amman on 28 November—recorded; broadcast in progress; King Husayn makes introductory remarks in Arabic but answers all questions in English with simultaneous Arabic translation, Mitterrand speaks in French with simultaneous translation into Arabic]

[Text] [Husayn] ...very happy. I once again welcome my great guest and the guest of Jordan, His Excellency President Francois Mitterrand, among us today. He has agreed to meet with the media correspondents. We welcome him once again in Jordan, a dear guest. We always take pride in the friendship and fraternity between us and between our two countries. He is the man of great positions and principles, which he always champions, for the good of man in this world.

I would like to welcome our friend and to say what an honor and a privilege it is for us here in Jordan to welcome a dear and great friend, President Francois Mitterrand and Mrs. Mitterrand, on this visit to Jordan. It is a privilege for me and for the people of Jordan to welcome a dear and great friend and a man of principle.

who has striven throughout his life to uphold principles and lofty ideas and the tradition of France for a better future for mankind. I am very happy indeed to have this opportunity to welcome and meet our friends from the media, and to welcome you once again, sir, on behalf of my Jordanian family, my family, and myself here in Jordan. Thank you so much.

[Mitterrand] I thank His Majesty King Hussyn for the quality of his reception, which he has proved just now. After our meetings, we would not miss the opportunity to tell the press of what went on between us. This is why we are here. We, his majesty and I, talked for more than one hour yesterday before dinner. We were also sitting next to each other during the dinner party and we talked then. We still have a chance to talk even after this news conference and before we return to Paris.

We had long contacts and there was an exchange of views between our foreign ministers, and between our foreign minister and the Jordanian prime minister.

A few agreements were signed. There are other agreements, [words indistinct] protocol, which will be signed before the end of the year, especially in the field of information. A protocol was signed to broadcast a daily program in French over Radio Jordan's frequencies, an agreement in the field of health regarding the training of doctors was also signed, and a draft agreement will be signed in the near future regarding the recognition of the French diplomas in Jordan.

For many years, relations between Jordan and France were good. Now, we try to expand the scope of our contacts, relations, and cooperation. The discussion we had was very promising concerning the future. These are the most important things we discussed. Now, you can take the discussion further by raising the questions you like. Yes, the gentleman in the front.

[Reporter from SURAQYA magazine] Mr. President of France, Europe, and France in particular, have close relations with the states of the region. In a statement after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, you said you will devote your efforts to economic development in the region. Do you not think that by distancing yourself from playing a political role in the peace process or in the Middle East, you will hamper your efforts in economic development, especially since there is a strong link between economy and politics? Thank you Mr. President.

[Mitterrand] Yes, you are right. It is difficult to make a division between them; it is difficult to make a division between the political and economic aspects. The bilateral talks continue. Europe, and France in particular, do not participate in them directly. They participate a little, but not enough. This is not new. Some people may wonder: Why? This was the case in the Camp David talks, except when the talks were being held under the auspices of the United Nations. Do we have to stand by idly? We must not forget that the multilateral talks are continuing. The multilateral talks will need a European role, a European financial role, to invest in this region and to improve this region in the future. When I came to Jordan, I heard the same thing about the European and French roles. But there are certain problems, like water, transportation, tourism, communications, (?planning), and development [words indistinct] this region is imperative.

I imagine that the this is not possible without support from Europe, which has means of help to offer aid to all parties in the region. We hope there will be a political agreement. But, if we exchange accusations in such a manner without doing anything, then our discussions and accusations will not end. When I and his majesty were together, we began to talk and discuss things in an attempt to resolve also the political problems in the region. This is what we are doing, indeed. In a minute, sir.

[Unidentified Reporter] A question for his majesty. Do you wish France to have a bigger role; that France will have a role in the multilateral talks bigger than the current one?

[Hussyn, in English] As far as we are concerned here in Jordan, we have always welcomed an active and important role for France to play in helping all concerned in this region achieve a comprehensive peace, the kind of peace that future generations would accept and protect. France is extremely close to us on the moral level, historically, and in terms of its position in the world and in Europe, and its proximity to this region, and the problems we all face. Obviously, over a long period of time, we have shared ideas and hopes for progress towards a comprehensive solution to the problem and in the past, prior to the monumental events that you have mentioned, that the world has seen. We had and we continued to call for steps to be taken to resolve this chronic problem, this tragic problem in this part of the world. During those times, we spoke of the international conference under the supervision of the five permanent members of the Security Council to implement Security Council Resolution 242 and the implementation of 338 and to resolve the problem. I believe we, in the face of all the changes that have occurred, continue to strive for peace.

I think there has been a change, not only in the world but maybe in the region, in the sense of urgency that people directly concerned feel in terms of this being the very final chance to avert disaster and to move ahead in line with the rest of the world, hopefully, towards a better future.

No solution to the problem can be achieved in the absence of dealing with the Palestinian dimension of it. It is the crux of the matter and no solution can be achieved without addressing the rights of the people of Palestine on their Palestinian legitimate soil.

We are at the moment engaged in an attempt to move forward, again with this sense of urgency in the region

itself, which may be, and I consider it, a positive development, for the steps have been slow. And although we warned from the outset that it was going to take time and effort, we believe may be that the skeptics are growing in numbers. That is where we hope, be it on the bilateral negotiations, where we have provided an umbrella for a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation on the bilateral level, as others represent themselves in Syria and in Lebanon.

I would like to explain again that this umbrella means that essentially Palestinians represent themselves regarding their problem, their rights, or their soil and we have offered the mechanism to enable them to do so with our full support, because out of all Arabs and with all due respect we are the closest and have been and will always be to the Palestinian cause in terms of its importance to us, in terms of not only proximity but our total involvement with our brethren regarding their legitimate rights ever since the disaster first began to take shape.

On the international level also, we are obviously involved in terms of the multilateral negotiations and discussions. But in all of this if we are to continue to move ahead, if the difficulties mounted—and they are there and we've recognized them from the outset—then, what's wrong with having our friends put their moral weight, their experience, and their genuine desire to help all concerned achieve a solution for them to do so?

And as far as we are concerned, we believe that France has a major role to play, and probably, one of the most important in contributing toward a solution of a problem that otherwise threatens this entire region and threatens the world and moves in the opposite direction toward many in this world who seek to try to achieve a better future for mankind.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency Mr. President, we know, we read and hear about the greatness of France and the greatness of its principles. But the question is how can France these days reconcile its great principles—its democracy, the spreading of this democracy and the freedom of people and the expression of people's thoughts at a time when it strengthens its ties and increases it friendship with the rulers and the regimes of these oppressed peoples. I [word indistinct] the region in fact, beginning with the Gulf states and the rest of the region?

[Mitterrand] You mean Israel, for example. I was not expecting you to mention this [words indistinct] and I need some time to rethink a bit. If you mean Iran, [words indistinct], our relations with Iran are diplomatic and cannot be described as warm. There is no special friendship with Iran but we are sincere to history which elected that this country be so big that we cannot ignore it. Concerning Saudi Arabia, it is an Arab state and we have with it traditional, ordinary relations and we have ties with all the region's states, the Arab states in the region, with the exception of Iraq in the recent past, and you know why.

We have tried, and his majesty tried, until the end to adhere to the tenuous strings of peace to the last but Iraq refused. We have not played a double game. Our decision was simple. Since there was a chance for peace, we sought peace. But since Iraq opted for war then we also opted for war. Concerning Jordan, even during the Gulf war, our relations were good with Jordan. With Syria, there is the Lebanese problem, which creates problems sometimes but there is continuous contacts and discussions. There are other countries. Yemen for example which invited me to visit. Even during the Gulf war I was invited to Yemen.

There are other ongoing contacts, with the United Arab Emirates, for instance. We will not discuss Egypt, because it is far [word indistinct]. We maintain fraternal ties with the Egyptian leadership. We are not going to name all the states one by one; however we maintain good relations with everyone. We do not want to meddle in the internal affairs of any country. We have a government of our own; we are a democracy. We are not happy to see a country where there is no democracy, but we are not required to give lessons to such a country. It is up to its people to decide what is best for them.

Regarding the Palestinians, up till now they have no state of their own; but they are a people. There have been contacts between us and these have continued. We want to see UN resolutions implemented. We have also maintained good relations with Israel. We must respect the resolution passed by the United Nations 40 years ago on Israel's right to exist. We were the second country to vote for that resolution after the Soviet Union. It is true that we were the second nation to recognize Israel. We have not given automatic approval to all that the Israelis have done since then. However, we believe in Israel's right to existence and security.

Certain Arab states adopt extremist positions. Over a long time, there have been those who have sought the total destruction of Israel, and yet, we have maintained good relations with these countries. We have all along made no secret of our thoughts and beliefs. We express our views simply and clearly. We, therefore, stick to our positions. Regarding Resolutions 242 and 338 we wish various parties expressed themselves more clearly and explicitly and frankly.

When Israel stood against the PLO representing the Palestinians at the talks, we did not interfere, since this was not a matter for us to decide. However, we also ask: Who are these representatives Israel is talking about? There are those who represent the Israelis now. We are talking about non-existent persons. They do not exist. When they have an existence, we may discuss the subject. [last three sentences as heard]

I have no one in particular in mind, but the PLO enjoys the support of the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people. We will not interfere to say whether they are right or not. They have decided who represents them. The PLO is recognized by all the Arab states. We French

have no reason to quarrel with that. We have no problem having ties with any party. The only Arab country with which we have no ties now is Iraq. We reject the idea of partitioning Iraq, since this runs counter to all that we stand for. There are certain enclaves in Iraq to protect Iraqi citizens. As for France's role, we are told that France should not take part and have no role to play, as if the French role has collapsed once and for all. This is not true. We have a diplomatic duty everywhere. Previously our position was worse, and now it is better than before in certain areas. Thirty or 40 years ago, [numbers as heard] France did not play any part. For instance, France had no role in Camp David. Only Egypt, Israel, and the United States were partners there. There is also Russia in the region, and you know what has happened to Russia. I think Russia has a role to play and I hope it will have one and also hope things will work out so as to advance the interests of the Russians people. Russia had a role. The United States and Israel decided to give it a role in the negotiations.

As far we are concerned, there is no retreat, and also as far as our role is concerned, because, basically, we had no role in the past. We did not participate in Camp David, for example. But when things got worse, Mr. Baker used to come to us, and this was on rare occasions, to ask for our help. Jimmy Carter had great patience and played a great role during the Camp David. We do not want to underestimate that role. But we also have a presence. Our problem is that we have relations with all parties. But, in my opinion, our presence is very strong. The United States and Israel do not want France to have a role, a big role, in these negotiations at this time. Therefore, [word indistinct] your question to explain our French viewpoint because people forget history most of the time. Madame.

[Unidentified reporter] The first question is for his majesty. Your Majesty, this...

[Mitterrand, interrupting] We cannot hear you very well. Please come closer to the microphone. Please, Madame, we are interested in listening to you.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, my question is the following: A great deal of progress has been reported on the Jordanian-Israeli track. How much progress has been achieved and under which conditions is Jordan willing to sign a peace treaty with Israel? And, the second question is for President Mitterrand. After meeting with Israeli leaders, have you noticed that Mr. Rabin's government has a genuine desire in peace? Have you talked about South Lebanon with Mr. Rabin and the Israeli leaders?

[Husayn, in English] It is sometime rather interesting to note that anything involving Jordan seems to attract a lot of attention, have been the subject of comment and speculation, whereas, I am sure, that during the period that has passed, probably there has been some other progress on other tracks. In any event, you've asked me about what has been achieved on the Israeli-Jordanian dimension so far. I did explain earlier on that we have provided an umbrella for a Palestinian delegation to speak for the Palestinian people regarding their rights on their soil, and I believe when we speak of our Palestinian brethren, we also speak of the close association with their leadership, elected by them, selected by them, recognized by them and recognized by all the Arab leaders and many in the world as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In any event, regarding the developments so far, I believe that the ice is broken in the sense that delegations are discussing problems. But, I did refer to the fact that very little progress has been made so far if you take the element of time, almost one complete year. And in reference to the very recent developments, there was a paper presented by the two delegations to their respective governments as a suggestion for their approval or otherwise regarding the points of discussion in the coming phase as they concern Jordan and Israel.

Somehow, this received a lot of publicity before the answers were even forthcoming from certainly the Government of Jordan. So, this is how far we have reached. But, in regard to your question regarding the peace treaty, we have made it abundantly clear that peace, comprehensive peace, a just peace, a lasting peace that future generations can live with and protect is our objective. We believe that the chance was there years ago, but fragmenting the problem with the expectation that maybe people would revert to the so-called step-by-step approach of the past. We have never believed this would get us to achieve that worthy and sacred objective of resolving a problem that has been there for such a long time and has affected so many people.

So, regarding a peace treaty, I believe that it will only come or whatever other arrangement may be feasible, when all the different elements had been put together. We hope that our delegation there will look at anything that is possible to discuss, to have a common approach to the ideas of how a problem or a dimension of it can be resolved. And this applies to the bilateral and multilateral tracks as well, so that when everything is put together in the final analysis, we have peace, the comprehensive peace we speak about.

Short of that, there would be no solution that we could say is a solution that has transformed or would transform the region from what it has suffered and endured to what we hope and pray will be the case. And amongst the most important elements that are still not satisfactorily addressed is the Palestinian dimension in terms of Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil. Speaking of Security Council Resolution 242 and its implementation, the desire and the courage of the Palestinians in offering to every point their contribution towards the attainment of peace and resolving the critical and difficult problems that have to be addressed. I once again go back to the past, when Jordan was seeking the recovery of the West Bank—rather what Jordan understands Security Resolution 242 to mean—and Jordan did partake in formulating that famous resolution, which is still the foundation for any solution that hopefully will come.

[Text] 242 refers to land for peace. There are the two famous interpretations, but as far as we were concerned, we understood 242 to mean withdrawal from all occupied territories, occupied in June of 1967.

With regard to the West Bank, there was the possibility of minor border rectifications on a reciprocal basis subject to the agreement of both parties. Otherwise, what we were talking about was the line that stood before the 5th of June of 1967. Why the rectifications? Because it was a cease-fire line rather than a permanent border since the late forties.

Arab Jerusalem was occupied territory, and Arab Jerusalem, as far as we were concerned throughout, should have returned and should return to Arab sovereignty. But in the context of peace, a lasting peace, our hope and prayer was that Jerusalem could come to symbolize the essence of peace between the followers of the three great monotheistic religions. Jerusalem should not come under the control, in terms of its importance to all the followers of the three great monotheistic religions the world over, of any. It should be God's will. And if there is any power that controls the holy city, it should emanate from his will that made that city that important to the followers of the three great monotheistic religions. And of course there may be different interpretations, but in all humility, my firm belief is that the importance of this city to all of us is for it to be the essence of peace between us as God's will.

So, Arab sovereignty over the Arab part of the city of Jerusalem occupied in June of 1967, and finding once and for all, after all the centuries that have passed, the solution that would make Jerusalem the essence, the city, the symbol of peace between all believers in God. Since then, we have handed over, in response to Palestinian demands, the dimension dealing with Palestinian territory and Palestinian rights to our Palestinian brethren in response to their demand and the demand of all Arab leaders. This responsibility is now theirs but not without our total commitment to support them in terms of their rights.

Again, it is our hope that when Palestinians secure these rights, they will all be together and in other words, even in the past when we talked about 242 and its implementation as Jordan, we never sought the recovery of this territory to us, but we hoped for a solution that would bring other parts of Palestine under occupation, such as Gaza in particular, to be linked with the West Bank, and for Palestinians, and I am referring to the past, under conditions of freedom, under international auspices or in any other way, to exercise their legitimate right of self-determination and decide their future.

There is trust and there is confidence between us now. We ended the legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. This enabled us here to move towards the aim that we have always had when the conditions were ripe and to return to democracy, the popular participation in government in shaping the future of this country. And as far as Jordan is concerned, we are all members of one family, regardless of our origins, proud of the fact that we share in shaping our destiny, and it is our duty and our hope that we can make of this country an example to others in seeking the kind of peace that will last for the region and for future generations of both sides of the divide; seeking for the Palestinians, above all, their rights on their soil and fully aware of the fact that Palestinians are ready, have been ready, have been asking for an opportunity to say their word, to make their contribution at the center of this tragic conflict.

And of course, in regard to Jordan our duties will continue to be to consolidate the foundations on which this country is building and shaping its future, in terms of democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights, and the implementation of the National Charter, worked out by all schools of political thought within this country.

So, we are working for peace; we believe it is urgent. I can cite an example. If you look at the area, the changes, as far as demography is concerned, and at the needs of people, absent peace there are many problems that are almost upon us, if we leave the obvious, which is the concern for the human dimension and for hope and for confidence and for security for all. [sentence as heard] The area even cannot provide, absent peace, sufficient quantities of water for people. [sentence as heard] Down the line within the next few years, we might have a real crisis, not for industry and agriculture but for people to be able to satisfy their own needs in this regard. With peace, doors open for tremendous possibilities. These are realities that it is important for people to realize and understand.

And again, sir, with your permission, and with the permission of our friends here, contributing towards peace and shaping it and making it is not a monopoly for some in this world, and France has always sought to contribute towards it and this has always been welcomed by us. And I hope that France will continue to do whatever it can to help us achieve peace in the region, and in the lead and among the leaders of those who really have the best interests of all concerned in this region at heart and to wish for it the better future which is in its right. Thank you very much.

[Mitterrand] I would like to respond to a lady who asked a question a short while ago. You asked about may impressions of Israeli peace intentions. I do not doubt their intentions or desire for peace. [Word indistinct] are means to attain peace and are [word indistinct]. But the will for making peace is there.

Regarding southern Lebanon, it is common knowledge that we stand for an end to all forms of occupation in Lebanon. That applies to all foreign armies on Lebanese territory.

[LE MONDE reporter] I will show you this cartoon which I faxed a short while ago. It is about the region. It represents all the partners to the peace process in the region. It shows you serving them food, and telling them

that you are offering them what they want, provided they prepare the food themselves.

[Husayn in English] [Words indistinct] President Mitterrand [words indistinct] France a great deal of experience and a great deal of knowledge of these problems. I suggest that we view him as a friend who has come to this area representing France [words indistinct] to see what can be done first of all on the bilateral level [words indistinct] and what steps should be taken for the building of true friendship and cooperation, and a desire to secure a better future for [words indistinct] each other both now and in the future. But I think that it is not only a problem of seeking what people want [words indistinct] as well as one of the most astute of political figures in the world if not the most astute, genuine, concerned [words indistinct] form an idea about what is happening and to help those concerned [words indistinct]. I believe I have suggested that in regard to the problem in the recent past, there is a lack of moral courage [words indistinct] can certainly be displayed by the Israeli attitude regarding the Palestinians [words indistinct] to their leaders. This is my view. So it is not just a question of [word indistinct] the area and all friends to see what people wish [words indistinct] in our common interest, in the interest of this whole region and the world. [Words indistinct] to move ahead. We are trying our best [words indistinct]. We stand on principle [word indistinct] helping all move towards the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace. [Words indistinct] thank you very very much.

[Text] [Mitterrand] You have drawn the picture from your own inspiration and therefore, you are more aware than others of what is in it. If I were in your place, I would have presented the concerned parties, I would have told them: Perhaps I have not offered you the main course, but I hope I will be able to present you the dessert.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency, during your visit to Israel, did you find the Israeli side willing to meet with a PLO delegation directly? On the economic issue, you noted the economic situation in your speech yesterday, [words indistinct]. In your speech you noted the bad economic situation which was brought on Jordan by the Gulf crisis. In Israel you proposed establishing a European fund to help the region. Can you give us clarifications about this fund and the European assistance for the region's states, including Jordan of course?

[Mitterrand] I cannot give you definite details, perhaps until after I contact the president of the European Commission and the officials. It seems that at the beginning, the European states will contribute to this fund to help develop this region as a first step.

[Unidentified reporter] A question for His Majesty King Husayn. Your Majesty, in the past, you said that you did not approve of the statement that Jordan began with you and ended with you. What are the concerns that compelled you to say this?

[King Husayn in English] First of all this is not a new position that I have had or a thought and a concern that I have had. I believe that the history of this region is full of instances where there has been a lack of continuity due to the fact that it was the nature of things that prevented us in the region as whole moving ahead, achieving complementarity, securing relations based on mutual respect. In the absence of democracy and respect for human rights, it is my desire and wish in life to be able to distance myself from what has been usual in this region, and for Jordan to present a good example to others when we were able to [word indistinct] to implement our convictions in modern Jordan, the home for all its people who share equal rights and are members of one family. And this essentially is what I have been struggling for throughout my life. It is not I who matters; it is Jordan that matters, it is the area that matters, it is future generations that matter. When I made those statements—and if you are referring to the speech I made some while ago, nobody has ever been more convinced that he is mortal than I throughout my life. And I think the many stories that were circulated throughout the many years that have passed, of the dangers I have been through, of the threats I faced, would suggest that the struggle was not one to overcome these dangers and difficulties. I believe in God and I believe in the fact that all of us are mortal. But I am more proud than ever in belonging to a family which is the people of Jordan.

But I am more proud than ever in belonging to a family which is the people of Jordan who have overcome so many difficulties, who faced so many challenges together. We live in a country where everything is out in the open. We are finding our way towards what we hope is a better future. We can only advise, and this will be the case regarding others in our region, other members of our bigger family. And relations will be thus created, and foundations laid to ensure continuity and greater intercomplementarity. And believe us always is what has been achieved by others in this world, including Europe. I certainly wouldn't wish it to be a case where people would suggest at some point in time that Jordan began with me and ended with me. It didn't begin with me, and it will not end with me. As for my health I am well, and as well as any other in this world but I have passed through a difficult experience, but I am assured that everything is fine. This is nothing to do with it. I had always prayed that long after I am gone, future generations will pass a judgment which is for me and not against me. I came back from a surgery to face a meeting that I never thought, and warmth of feelings that I never thought would be some that I would see in my lifetime. I was deeply appreciative, and this made me realize even more the importance of contributing my best and whatever remains of time to ensure that the foundations that get all this about are even more solid for the future. Thank your very much, indeed.

[Mitterrand] Madame. I beg your pardon.

[Unidentified reporter in English] I want to repeat first question because of [word indistinct] translated. He

asked about. France suggested the PLO to have direct negotiations with Israel, [word indistinct] delegation [words indistinct]. The question was what was Israel's reaction on that? And second [words indistinct] on the status of Jerusalem [words indistinct]?

[Mitterrand] [Words indistinct] we will reach during my lifetime a solution, I don't know, but I hope to reach a solution during your lifetime since you are young. If we do not reach a solution in your lifetime, it will be a catastrophe. But let me say that the road is still long.

[Unidentified reporter in English] [Word indistinct] about the PLO. What was Israel's reaction [words indistinct] when you suggested the PLO to have direct negotiations [words indistinct]?

[Mitterrand] The Israeli response is historically known to be against such trend. It is not me who says this, but everybody knows it. The Israeli Government's position is known, and they are firm about this.

But I hope that they will take the road of peace that has opened up before them. I have been working in politics for 40 years, and I have yet to encounter one Palestinian who would tell me that he is prepared to negotiate separately from the PLO. Consequently, it stands to reason that it represents these people.

[Unidentified reporter] A question about Jerusalem....

[Mitterrand] We will not interfere in this affair. There is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher which we Christians hold sacred. The Christians divide it into a few squares and meters in order for each to have his own share. Did you know who holds the key to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher? It is held by Muslim Arabs. In the future a situation may arise where the same Muslims will need Christians to hold the keys to their mosque. I think that the question of Jerusalem is one of the toughest issues. I hope that it will not be the first question to be addressed by the negotiations, since it would thus prove an obstacle. As for my departure time, if you will allow me I will ask Mr. Dumas if ... Yes, there is time for two questions. As you see, I give greater leeway to my government than is known to be the case. I will ask a Jordanian journalist and French one only.

[Unidentified Jordan Television reporter] What is the significance of the cultural agreement signed today for French programming at the Jordanian radio station?

[Mitterrand] Jordan's position has been clear, frank, and friendly. It is a daily broadcast carrying French language programs. Many French speaking countries do not have such a service. I thank his majesty and the Jordanian Government who have showed friendship and fondness for France. It will be possible to listen to programs in French in this country every day. We will also help in the teaching of French in this country. If there is any other question?

[Unidentified reporter] My question is for his majesty. With the continuation of the peace talks in Washington, the Israeli and the Palestinian sides, and some Arab countries, talk about the possibility of a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians, and even about a tripartite confederation comprising Israel as well as Jordan and the Palestinians. Do you consider either of these two possibilities, of course if the Israelis and the Palestinians agree to it?

[Husayn in English] Sir, I have made it clear, and that is the position of the government of Jordan as well, that regardless of the very, very close, relations, the unique relations, that exist between us and our Palestinian brethren, the shape of the future will have to be determined by people when they are free and able to do so. So, we are not really looking seriously at any particular shape of these relations (?at the moment) or regarding the future. We will leave the future to take care of itself. And, we know that, eventually, that the ties that are there, the concerns, the facts will bring us together in some form, or shape to, hopefully, set again of this relationship an example to others in this region. But, we are totally uninterested in (?pursuing) ahead of the time when conditions would permit people freely to decide what the future should be, and speculate how it should be, what the future should be [words indistinct] Thank you very, very much indeed. And, I would like to say once again how proud I am, and happy I am to have had this opportunity to welcome you and to be with you, sir. I've never attended a more friendly, cordial meeting with our friends in the past. And, I thank you, sir, for all the points you were kind enough to make and the responses. Once again, it is an honor for me and an honor for my Jordanian family to welcome you to Jordan, sir. Thank you so much.

## Prime Ministers Meet

*JN2811122592 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received at his office today French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

The audience was attended by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir. Discussions tackled the outcome of French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Israel and his talks with Palestinian dignitaries in occupied Jerusalem, as well as means to boost the Middle East peace process and activate Europe's role in this respect.

Discussions also tackled Jordanian-French economic, cultural, and scientific relations, as well as French proposals to establish a European fund for the Middle East, in that boosting economic development projects in the region, enhancing the regional ties with Europe, and contributing to the stability and prosperity of all peoples. [sentence as heard]

### Mitterrand Concludes Visit

*JN2811154292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Excerpt] His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand, his wife Danielle Mitterrand, and their delegation left Amman this afternoon at the end of a two-day official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. During the visit, Mitterrand held talks with His Majesty King Husayn on ways to bolster relations of deep friendship between the two friendly countries and discussed aspects of cooperation in various political, economic, scientific, and cultural fields.

The two great leaders also discussed the current international situation and regional issues—at the top of which was the Middle East peace process—and ways to realize world stability, security, and a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace for the peoples of the region on the basis of UN resolutions and resolutions of the international legitimacy.

His Majesty King Husayn, and Her Majesty Queen Nur led the delegation seeing off his excellency the French president and his wife. [passage omitted]

### Iraq's 'Aziz Arrives En Route to Baghdad

*JN2911184992 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Amman this evening at the head of a delegation comprising Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and a number of Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials. Mr. 'Aziz is on his way back to Baghdad after delivering a speech at the UN Security Council in New York in which he asked the Council to lift the siege imposed on fraternal Iraq.

Mr. 'Aziz and his delegation were received at Queen Alia International Airport by Engineer 'Ali al-Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and minister of transport; Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

### Received by King

*JN3011162692 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id *al-Sahhaf* at the Royal Hashemite Court today. His majesty stressed that rebuilding a unified Arab position requires a distinguished Arab effort and constitutes a necessary response to current challenges threatening the Arab nation. During the meeting, they also reviewed the current Arab and international situations in light of the rise of regional and international economic and political blocs. The meeting was attended by His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Royal Hashemite Court Chief Dr. Khalid al-Karaki.

### King Husayn Discusses Peace, Democracy

*AU0112120292 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 30 Nov 92 pp 202-208*

[Interview with King Husayn by Romain Leick and Volkhard Windfuhr in Amman; date not given: "This Is Our Last Chance"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Your Majesty, you have ruled Jordan for 40 stormy years. You have defended yourself against many attempted coups d'etat, survived the devastating defeat by Israel in 1967, and lived through unrest and rebellion. Do you think that peace is now closer than ever?

[Husayn] There has never been a more important and critical moment. We are facing enormous opportunities, which will, hopefully, be seized by everyone. At the same time, there are still dangers. The conditions under which peace is to be achieved must not be based on the advantages of the moment. On both sides of our torn region there are forces that are determined to do everything to destroy the chances for peace.

[DER SPIEGEL] What is Jordan's contribution to this historical opportunity? Can you take the initiative and give a good example?

[Husayn] We are part of everyone's efforts. This is what prevented us in 1977 from following Egypt when then President al-Sadat took his special path toward peace. I have always considered the common path the right one. This includes that the Palestinians are guaranteed their legitimate rights to their territory. At the same time, they must be able to represent themselves as they wish.

[DER SPIEGEL] After all, Egypt has gotten Sinai back through direct negotiations. You and the Palestinians lost more and have not regained anything.

[Husayn] Still, the goal must be a comprehensive peace, which offers security to future generations.

[DER SPIEGEL] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has done two things in advance: He stopped the construction of political settlements in the occupied territories and offered a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. What are the Arabs offering in return?

[Husayn] There is a new realism in this region. The elections *in* Israel were a milestone. They resulted in a mandate for the peace process. So far, both sides counted on pressure from the outside. This was an illusion; in the meantime we know that the change must come from the inside.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does this also include the insight that there is no way around recognizing Israel's right to exist?

[Husayn] The basis of the peace process is known. It is based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. The question is no longer whether Israel exists but what kind of Israel it is.

[DER SPIEGEL] U.S. pressure on Israel might decline under the new U.S. President, Bill Clinton. Have the Arab leaders really understood that they can no longer play for time?

[Husayn] I trust that the United States will not flag in its efforts. The new administration, too, will recognize the urgency.

[DER SPIEGEL] Yes, but if Rabin's readiness for compromise is not met by something in return, the nationalist Likud bloc will benefit from that. Do you see the danger that the golden opportunity will be missed and the peace talks will collapse?

[Husayn] This risk exists. In view of the big problems on hand, we cannot afford to slide in confusion into an uncertain future. Then a disaster would not be far away.

[DER SPIEGEL] What kind of disaster do you mean? A new war?

[Husayn] Just look at the demographic changes: There are more than 1 million people in Gaza crammed together on a very small territory; Israel must integrate the immigrants from the former Soviet Union; Jordan has taken in 400,000 returnees from the Gulf region. Supplying these people just with drinking water causes us great worry. There is so much at stake—I pray that we will be successful. The peace process must be irreversible.

[DER SPIEGEL] If the negotiations between Israel and other Arab countries, such as Syria do not make progress, would you be willing to conclude an interim agreement?

[Husayn] The problems which Jordanians and Palestinians are facing are the most difficult of all. In this respect, we rather need more time than the others. Nevertheless, we can discuss individual areas, where rapprochement seems to be easier, in advance and keep the most difficult points for afterward.

[DER SPIEGEL] Thus, a step-by-step approach and not necessarily one demanding everything or nothing?

[Husayn] In the end, everything has to come together to a comprehensive solution. A return to negotiations, where everyone thinks only of his own interests, would be wrong. We must all come together before it is too late.

[DER SPIEGEL] But shouldn't the Palestinians, in particular, dedicate themselves more strongly to working for success and overcome their opposition to Israel?

[Husayn] Reason, logic, and the interest of the people command to find a solution that will satisfy also our children and grandchildren. However: no peace at any price. The Palestinian problem cannot be solved without the Palestinians. They are the ones who have to live with the peace.

[DER SPIEGEL] Certainly, but they do not speak with one voice.

[Husayn] They are doing rather well.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you still feel responsible for the Palestinian people?

[Husayn] I am always willing to help, but I have given up formal responsibility at the desire of the Palestinians and the Arabs; there is no way back.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does this mean that the Palestinians in Jordan can also freely choose between you and their own representatives?

[Husayn] All Jordanians, regardless of their origin, are members of one single family. I am quite categorical about this.

[DER SPIEGEL] Would, therefore, a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation be the most useful solution?

[Husayn] It is not our business, but that of the Palestinians to decide on this when the time has come.

[DER SPIEGEL] Would cooperation between Israel, Palestine, and Jordan—following the example of the Benelux countries—be conceivable?

[Husayn] A long distance still has to be covered. We should hope that it will not take too long until we can afford the luxury to look toward such horizons.

[DER SPIEGEL] During the Gulf crisis, your refusal to join the international coalition against the aggressor Saddam Husayn brought you much reproach and isolation. Now you again have a key role in the Arab-Israeli peace talks. Have the wounds of the Gulf war finally healed?

[Husayn] The irritations, which developed between us and some of our brothers, have declined. However, the wounds that were torn open by the Gulf war will continue to fester for a long time. This is precisely what I wanted to prevent when I did everything to solve the Kuwait crisis peacefully.

[DER SPIEGEL] Thus, you still think that siding with Iraq at that time was justified?

[Husayn] I did not have any other choice. I was looking for an Arab solution to an Arab problem. I wanted to avoid the bloodshed and bitterness of war.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are you still afraid of the possibility that Iraq might crumble under pressure from the United Nations and the uprisings in the country?

[Husayn] Iraq's territorial integrity is very important for the stability in this region. A splitting into a Kurdish north, a Sunni center, and a Shi'ite south could lead to great trouble; the ethnic and religious demons would be awakened. Who can want the Yugoslav tragedy to repeat itself in our region?

[DER SPIEGEL] You were long friends with tyrant Saddam Hussyn. What makes you warn against dictators just now, who linked the fate of their nation with their own ambition?

[Hussyn] These words were not directed against any specific person. The Iraqis are qualified enough to decide themselves who is to lead them in which way. I wish them all the best. I have lived through two big crises in my life—

[DER SPIEGEL] ...the Six-Day War of 1967 and—

[Hussyn] ...the Gulf crisis in 1990. Both times I felt that I failed. I saw the first crisis coming. I knew how it would end, but I was unable to avert the disaster. We Mid Iraqis: we believed in Arab unity and our alliance duties. The crisis of 1990, on the other hand, surprised me. Therefore, I now believe that the only future for our region is to establish bases for democracy. Only then can trust replace distrust and hostility. I wish every Arab state democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights. Why should it not be possible for us to achieve what Europe has long achieved? We must step out of the darkness of the long Arab night.

[DER SPIEGEL] You have tried for some time to turn your kingdom into a constitutional monarchy. Does this also impress the autocrats around you?

[Hussyn] We can only concentrate on becoming a good example for others. We stick to our course, even though it might not be to the liking of some of our neighbors. Without our self-confidence and our pride we would not have been able to survive the afflictions of the past years.

[DER SPIEGEL] But there is also strong internal resistance against your course. Islamic fundamentalists reject any idea of making peace with Israel. Could radical religious zealots again throw Jordan and the entire Middle East into the vicious circle of war and violence?

[Hussyn] Before the beginning of the peace process we formed a committee in Jordan to work out a "National Charter." Almost all political groups in this committee agreed with the principle of making peace with Israel. The charter is binding on all Jordanians. We submit to the will of the one God. We do not feel threatened by radical Muslims; we have them under control.

[DER SPIEGEL] Recently you publicly conjured up the future of the Jordanian state and the Hashemite dynasty beyond the end of your personal rule. How secure is the monarchy if you no longer lead your kingdom?

[Hussyn] I have more confidence in the future and in the mission of my nation than ever. We have learned from the mistakes of the past.

[DER SPIEGEL] In view of the imponderabilities and the dangers in this region of crisis, do you feel that you are engaged in a race with time?

[Hussyn] Yes, absolutely. But this applies to all Arab countries and Israel as well. This is our last chance. If we let it pass unused, we are facing a terrible disaster.

[DER SPIEGEL] Your Majesty, thank you very much for this interview.

## King's Message on Palestinian Solidarity Day

*JN2911203492 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] His Majesty King Hussyn has said that Jordan was in the forefront of the supporters of the launching of the Middle East peace process; that it has contributed, as much as it could, toward preparing an atmosphere to hold the Madrid conference; and that it has done all it could to support the Palestinian people and to protect their rights and existence throughout the various phases of the conflict. He said that the umbrella of the joint delegation [to the Arab-Israeli peace talks] was an expression of Jordan's support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people. It was only an expression of Jordan's concern with achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and about resolving the Palestine question in accordance with international legitimacy.

In the message of solidarity addressed to the chairman of the UN Committee on Palestine, celebrating today's anniversary of the world day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, King Hussyn added that this celebration is a good occasion to express the international commitment to ending injustice and aggression against the Palestinian people, which are the result of Israel's continued occupation and disavowal of their right to self-determination. Following is the text of His Majesty King Hussyn's message:

Esteemed Mr. Keba Birane Cisse, chairman of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People: Greetings. The annual celebration on the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, which was created in accordance with an initiative from your esteemed committee, is a good opportunity to express the international commitment to ending the injustice and aggression against the Palestinian people resulting from Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territories and its disavowal of their right to self-determination. This celebration confirms the commitment of the United Nations and the international community to continuous action to rectify the injustice and oppression inflicted on the Palestinian people. It is also an expression of their belief in the actual implementation of the principles of international legitimacy.

You realize the repercussions of the partitioning of Palestine in terms of the eruption of the Arab-Israeli conflict, something which led to the expulsion of large numbers of Palestinians during the first phase, and to placing the remaining Palestinians under occupation during the later phase. The effects of this conflict were not confined to the suffering of the Palestinians and the

injustice against them, but all people of the region have been exposed to similar suffering as a result of what has accompanied this conflict, in terms of violence, war, and confrontation. The suffering of this region's peoples were deepened and prolonged when the conflict took on an internationalized nature after the Middle East became one of the stages of international confrontation during the cold war, given its strategic location and oil reserves. Covetous and ambitious regional and international forces have exploited this conflict to promote their own agenda, and the Palestine question has become both a regional and international conflict.

We had hoped, and we still hope, that the end of the cold war and rivalry between East and West, which prevailed throughout the past four decades, would lead to a settling of regional conflicts, including the Middle East conflict, and consequently, to putting an end to the Palestinian tragedy. This belief and desire for action to end the suffering of the Palestinians and all the region's peoples were among the most important factors which encouraged us to welcome the international detente, expressing our desire to believe the slogans and promises accompanying this, which confirm our commitment to international legitimacy; reinforce coexistence and the renunciation of force to settle international conflicts, thus protecting freedom and human rights; and bolster democracy and cooperation.

In harmony with this, we were the first to support the efforts carried by the United States, along with Russia as a cosponsor, as an expression of the international will to launch the Middle East peace process. Jordan has contributed all that it could to prepare an atmosphere for the Madrid conference for Middle East peace. Jordan has also done all it could to support the Palestinian people and protect their rights and existence throughout the various phases of the conflict. Our belief in the peace option was strengthened by our faith in the just Arab rights, the legitimate Palestinian struggle, the importance of coexistence and understanding among nations and peoples, and the need to safeguard international credibility and the principles of legitimacy. Now, after the passage of more than a year since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, the annual anniversary of the day of solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people comes around while they are still under the yoke of occupation and ruthlessness, suffering from a denial to exercise their national political rights on their national soil, and aspiring to what have been recognized and guaranteed by international legitimacy in terms of rights which cannot be ignored or aggressed upon, and which cannot vanish with the progression or lapse of time.

Although we thought that there was a desire by the majority of the Israeli people to have peace after the results of the latest Israeli elections, Israel, so far, has not exhibited a real willingness and realistic and courageous assessment of the requirements for peace. The Israeli delegations have not brought anything new to the negotiation table that would be cause for optimism or reassurance. Furthermore, we see a continued disavowal of the Palestinian people's national rights and repeated attempts to defy international legitimacy, represented by Security Council Resolutions 242, on the basis of which the Madrid conference was held.

Direct negotiations, which was an Israeli demand, have been realized with the approval of all parties. These negotiations are a suitable mechanism for attaining a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. But their very slow movement cannot be viewed as serving any objective other than procrastination and the wasting of time, which together spell a delay for the dawn of peace. Furthermore, this slow movement will open the door wide to despair and aggressiveness, and will provide opportunities, at the most dangerous and delicate stages, to the forces of darkness which are waiting for the talks to fail so they can unleash their energies more and more toward drawing the entire region and its peoples to an absolute catastrophe.

We firmly believe that the Palestinian people's participation in the peace conference and the negotiations under the PLO leadership, their sole legitimate representative, is an exercise in their right to self-determination over their land. Likewise, their independent decision to administer the negotiations is also an expression of this right. It is also a recognition by the international community that it is time to end the Palestinians' long suffering, during which serious violations of human rights and the principles of international law have been committed against them.

The Gulf war has proven that the Palestinians are not safe in the diaspora, and that an entity for them must be established. The Palestinian people are still in need of the international community's support so that they will be able to take their legitimate rights from the occupiers. Various UN bodies should effectively contribute to the peace process, especially since the negotiations are based on international legitimacy represented by the United Nations.

The Security Council, which is the body responsible for safeguarding world security and peace, is carrying out a prominent role in a conflict that is geographically and politically close to the Arab-Israeli conflict, but it is still excluded from playing an effective role in ending that conflict.

We in Jordan were the first to support the Palestinian people and the efforts of their representatives by providing them with what they need. The umbrella of the joint delegation is only one aspect of Jordan's support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people. This is not something casual in the integration of the two fraternal peoples. It is also an expression of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's eagerness to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace for the Arab-Israeli conflict, and to solve the Palestine question in accordance with international legitimacy in a manner that realizes the hopes of the Palestinian people and their aspirations to determine their future and ensure their freedom to

choose their path. This includes their right to set up their independent state on their national soil in a manner that guarantees Arab rights, foremost among them being the return of Arab Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty.

Finally, please accept our gratitude and appreciation for your good efforts—you and all members of the committee concerned with the exercise of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights—which you make to defend the Palestinian people's national and political rights. These good efforts are made in defense of the principles of righteousness, justice, and legitimacy.

Peace and God blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your sincere friend, Hussayn. Amman, 4 Jumada al-Thaniyah 1414 begins, corresponding to 29 November 1992

### Jubir Makes Statement, Leaves for ICO Meeting

*JN3011163092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir left Amman today at the head of a Jordanian delegation to participate in the extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to discuss the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The meeting will begin in Jeddah tomorrow and will last two days.

In a statement to journalists before leaving, Dr. Abu-Jabir said that the meeting would discuss the atrocities being committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially ethnic cleansing operations, as well as ways of dealing with the situation. He added that Jordan is greatly interested in this issue for several reasons, including the need to achieve stability in the Balkan region as a whole and His Majesty King Hussayn's concern expressed not only in sending peacekeeping forces to Croatia, but also in providing medical and humanitarian aid.

Regarding Jordan's proposals at the meeting, Dr. Abu-Jabir said: During the meeting, we will discuss ways of dealing with this situation, God willing.

Concerning the call for a military operation by the United Nations to protect the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr. Abu-Jabir said that this is one of the ideas to be discussed. He pointed out that the foreign ministers of the Arab sides taking part in the peace process might hold a coordination meeting on the sidelines of conference to discuss the eighth round of Arab-Israeli negotiations, which are scheduled to begin in the U.S. capital, Washington, on 7 December.

### Police Reportedly Close PFLP-GC Office

*JN3011115792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Sources in Amman have said that the Jordanian police recently closed an office belonging to the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine]—General Command [PFLP-GC], led by Ahmad Jibril, in Jordan, and arrested several members of this organization, after it turned out that they were involved in activities against the regime of King Hussayn.

Around 20 police and security men stormed the PFLP-GC offices in Amman last week and arrested several activists, including the chief of the office, Sami al-Sayyid, and a senior aide named Abu-Wa'il, as well as Abu-al-Walid, the official in charge of public relations.

It was reported that several people close to Ahmad Jibril are pressuring the Jordanian security authorities to release the detainees.

### U.S. Ad Offering Reward Appears in Paper

*NC3011184992 Paris AFP in English 1815 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Beirut, Nov 30 (AFP) - Advertisements offering millions of dollars in reward for the capture of the killers of three U.S. hostages appeared for the first time Monday in a newspaper published in the Lebanese capital.

AL-HAYAH newspaper, which is based in London but also published in Beirut and other Arab capitals, ran a full-page advertisement paid for by the U.S. Government. "A price has been paid because of terrorism—we will pay to put an end to terrorism," it said, under blurred photographs of the murdered hostages William Buckley, William Higgins and Peter Kilburn. Their capture led to their savage execution by their kidnappers. To bring these criminals to justice, we are offering rewards of up to two million dollars."

The ad called on informants to contact the U.S. authorities, embassies or consulates, or to write to "Heroes, P.O. Box 96781, Washington." The identity of informants would be kept secret.

The Lebanese newspaper NIDA' AL-WATAN, meanwhile, published a list of 10 Shiite Muslims it said were suspected by Washington of instigating the kidnappings. The list has been sent to a Western embassy in Beirut, it said. Talal Hamiyah, Fu'ad Shakur, 'Imad Mughniyah, Muhammad Haydar, Habib Kurani, Muhammad Musawi, Ibrahim 'Aqil, Hasan Ghusn, Muhammad Taha and 'Ali Hammar were on the list.

The United States has secretly indicted several suspects in the kidnapping and killing of U.S. hostages, a government official in Washington said on November 17. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed a report on Cable News Network that said the indictments charged Iranian-sponsored militants responsible for the abduction or death of U.S hostages in Lebanon.

CIA Beirut station chief William Buckley was kidnapped in March 1984 and killed the next year. Peter Kilburn, librarian at the American University of Beirut, was shot in the head soon after his kidnapping in 1986, while Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins of a UN peacekeeping force in south Lebanon was abducted in 1988 and hanged in July 1989.

According to security sources in Beirut, the key figures in the Lebanon kidnappings of Western nationals have taken refuge in Iran.

### Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Pays Visit

#### Meets Bawayz

*NC2711170292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Bawayz today discussed the role of the resistance in the south with Mohammad Kazem Khanseri, head of the Middle East Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, who is heading an Iranian delegation. The meeting was attended by Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut Homayun 'Alizadeh.

After the meeting, which lasted over an hour and a half, Khanseri said that he conveyed a message to Bawayz from [Iranian Foreign Minister] Velayati. We discussed our good bilateral relations, regional and international issues, and Bosnia-Herzegovina and the bestial oppression practiced there against the Bosnian people in an unfair war. Khanseri stressed the importance of the results of the exchange of visits between Bawayz and Velayati.

As for the resistance and the situation in the south, the Iranian official said:

[Begin recording] [Khanseri] We discussed various issues. Faris Bawayz explained in detail the concern of the Lebanese Government and people over the need to liberate southern Lebanon from Zionist occupation. As you know and have heard repeatedly from all Iranian officials—and I repeated this to Mr. Bawayz during this visit—the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the Lebanese people and government in liberating the south.

[Correspondent] What is your response to the Israeli accusation that you are nourishing resistance activities?

[Khanseri] The response to your question is the source of the question itself and our good knowledge of this source. You all know that the source is a liar and always has been. [end recording]

### Talks With President

*LD2811151392 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 28, IRNA—Foreign Ministry's Director General for Middle East Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khanseri discussed the latest developments in Lebanon and the region with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi here Friday.

President al-Hirawi called for expansion of mutual ties between Iran and Lebanon.

Khanseri condemned constant aggressions of the Zionist regime against south Lebanon and western Bekaa and reiterated Iran's support for the territorial integrity of Lebanon and the ongoing struggle to liberate the occupied territories.

In a related development; Khanseri expressed Iran's full support for the combatant Lebanese people in a meeting with Secretary General of Hizbollah of Lebanon Seyyed Hassan Nasrollah here the same day.

Khanseri also conferred with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri in separate meetings Saturday and discussed expansion of Tehran-Beirut political, economic and cultural relations.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khansari extended an invitation from Iranian Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri to Berri to pay an official visit to Tehran.

### Meets With Hizballah Leader

*NC2811171792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Text] Mohammad Kazem Khansari, head of the Middle East Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, continued his meetings with Lebanese leaders and personalities. Yesterday, he met with Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Hasan Nasrallah; 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, and Higher Islamic Shiite Council Deputy Chairman Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din. He also met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. During the meetings, the regional and international situation and bilateral ties were discussed.

After his meeting with Hizballah Secretary General Nasrallah, Khansari said:

[Begin recording] [Khansari] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate: I have met with Hizballah secretary general his eminence dear brother Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah and other brothers. We are visiting Beirut and our brothers here to convey greetings from their brother officials in the Islamic Republic, particularly Foreign Minister Velayati. We have heard our brothers' views on regional and international issues and the latest developments in Lebanon. I explained the situation in the Islamic Republic and our views on [words indistinct]

[Question indistinct]

[Khansari] Surely, the enemy will lose as it did in its bestial attacks and assassination of the Islamic Resistance martyrs, particularly martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi [words indistinct]. Of course, the martyrdom of such a figure is a big loss for [words indistinct]. Eventually, the enemy will lose as it did in all its previous attempts and as did those who used to embark on assassinations in the Islamic Republic by the arch-Satan [words indistinct]

[Question by unidentified correspondent] How do you assess ties between Iran and Lebanon?

[Khansari] Good. [end recording]

### Meets With Jumblatt

*NC0112074592 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Jumblatt has met with Mohammad Kazem Khansari, head of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North Africa Department, and Iranian Charge d'Affaires Homayun 'Alizadeh. Durayd Yaghi, PSP deputy leader for foreign affairs, also attended the meeting.

The conferees discussed bilateral relations and the Lebanese and Islamic situation and their views were identical.

### Paper Reports on Expanded Summit With Syria

*PM0112114392 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Nov 92 pp1, 4*

[Unattributed report: "Lebanese-Syrian Summit: Withdrawal, a Card for Implementation of Resolution 425"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—The Lebanese-Syrian expanded summit conference held the day before yesterday between Presidents Ilyas al-Hirawi and Hafiz al-Asad and attended by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker lawyer Nabih Birri, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Syrian People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, and Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, left the door open for more contacts between the two countries after the 7 December eighth and final round of peace talks in Washington before U.S. President George Bush hands the White House over to his successor Bill Clinton.

Sources close to the summit meeting described it as "more like a necessary pause for consultation as preparations proceed for the eighth round of negotiations, a pause for a joint reading of the most prominent features of U.S. policy and the possibilities of change in that policy or continuation of the constant principles it has upheld since the invitation to the peace conference." They added that the conferees made a general assessment of U.S.-Arab relations throughout President George Bush's term and considered to what extent the president-elect would follow his predecessor's policy.

The official sources quoted President al-Asad as saying: "We see the negotiations as part of the Arab struggle. The Arab states only joined the negotiations to confirm to the whole world that they wanted a just and balanced peace in the region and to embarrass Israel which always cast doubt on Arab intentions and wagered on Arab refusal to join the efforts aimed at establishing a comprehensive peace."

The sources also quoted President al-Asad as saying that "the negotiations have so far achieved no tangible progress and we expect nothing good to come of them if the Israeli position remains the same. That, however, does not prevent us from continuing our political battle in defense of our legitimate rights. I believe we have succeeded in winning the support of world public opinion."

In the discussions on the peace negotiations, the Lebanese and Syrian sides agreed that Foreign Minister lawyer Faris Buwayz will invite the foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states to a meeting in Beirut before the start of the eighth round of negotiations, not being

content with just the Arab consultations to be held early next month in Jeddah during the Islamic states conference.

The Lebanese and Syrian sides made an assessment of the situation in Lebanon after the parliamentary elections and the formation of a new government. Al-Hirawi, Birri, and al-Hariri expressed satisfaction with the positive atmosphere prevailing in Lebanon, indicating that Lebanon is capable of regaining the world's confidence and that the Lebanese are capable of regaining their faith in their country.

Prime Minister al-Hariri spoke in detail about the preparations and arrangements made in the services sector and about the difficulties resulting from existing gaps. He expressed hope that these difficulties will be overcome. He also spoke about all aspects of the economy and explained what the government plans to do about it.

In reply, President al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's support for everything required to enable Lebanon to achieve economic recovery. He expressed satisfaction with the changes which have occurred in Lebanon and which indicate that the consequences of the war are being remedied.

The conferees discussed the situation in the south in the light of Israel's unwillingness to implement Resolution 425 and the negotiations process. Speaker Birri expressed fear of the pressure exerted by Israel to drag Lebanon into a security agreement. He noted the positive part played and being played by the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations. He reaffirmed his rejection of any security agreement because that would be at the expense of the armistice agreement and Resolution 425.

On the phases already covered in the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement, it was emphasized that implementation of its provisions will continue, "including the article on the abolition of political sectarianism with a view to consolidating the mechanism stated in the Lebanese Constitution, provided that is seen, not as a way of giving preference to one group over another, but as a move to abolish sectarianism for the purpose of promoting national cohesion."

Emphasis was placed on national accord proceeding from the premise that "it is necessary that no group should be made to feel defeated and that the practical preparation for the abolition of sectarianism should not be seen to be in the interest of a single sect."

On bilateral relations, it was decided to reactivate the Treaty of Fraternity, Cooperation, and Coordination by appointing a Lebanese Christian as secretary general of the Higher Council. Some names were mentioned, including Ambassador Albert 'Asi, director of the Lebanese Interests Office in Damascus, Dr. George Dib, and 'Adil Shurwayri who currently holds the post of director general at the Chamber of Deputies.

It was agreed that Lebanon will prepare a list of candidates for that post within days so that agreement can be reached on a final candidate. That is to be followed by consultations between the two countries with a view to preparing the agenda for the Higher Council meeting. No date has been set for that meeting but it is expected to take place soon, perhaps in the second half of next month.

As regards the question of Syrian forces redeployment, one of the leaders who participated in the summit has told AL-HAYAH that the matter was discussed "not so much as something overdue but rather in the context of an evaluation of the security situation and the possibility of consolidating it in areas which need a security boost, be it in Beirut suburbs, the north, or Sidon, in a way that would give the state a free hand in tackling violations." Consolidation of security in the southern suburb was discussed in particular.

The president himself said that Damascus "believes that there is no problem between the two countries regarding redeployment and that Lebanon could benefit from the cards in its hands by putting pressure on Israel to implement Resolution 425 or get some guarantees."

## Deputy Prime Minister Leaves for Damascus

*NC0112105292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr left for Damascus this morning. He is scheduled to meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and other Syrian officials.

## Chief Negotiator Shammas Views Peace Talks

*NC2511210192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[Interview with Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general and head of the Lebanese delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by an unidentified correspondent upon his return to Beirut on 25 November—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador, you returned to Beirut today after participating in the seventh round of peace talks in Washington. How do you evaluate that round?

[Shammas] I am returning after an absence of three and a half months—something I did not expect. In reply to your question, I will try to sum up my impressions of the seventh round, in its two parts. The first part lasted until 28 October, and the second part lasted from 9 to 19 November. I would like to make a general observation: No round can be comprehensively evaluated in isolation from previous rounds. We must always remember that the negotiating process is a tough and arduous one; describing the negotiations as easy is absolutely out of question. The rounds of talks are links in a chain, and the

negotiator must be aware of his objectives, constants, variations, and the definitions he may give to the different subjects.

This is an essential introduction. This may not be the right venue for making this introduction, but I wanted to make it so as to be clear. Because of developments on the ground, especially in southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa', the seventh round was the most difficult of all. It was never easy. We experienced complicated times, but armed with our determination, belief in our cause, and perfect awareness of our national principles, we managed to [word indistinct]. We tried to convince the Israelis of our viewpoint. We believe that the Lebanese-Israeli track provides a clear chance for the entire peace process to prove serious. As a genuine expression of good intentions, the Israelis can discuss with us full withdrawal from the territories they are occupying in Lebanon. We are ready to discuss with them any issues they would like to discuss with us within the framework of these negotiations. This is the situation in short.

[Correspondent] In light of your contacts in the United States, what is your view of the stand of President-elect Clinton's administration on the peace process? Do you believe there has been a change in U.S. policy in this connection?

[Shammas] I wish to state that President Bush and his former Secretary of State James Baker have committed themselves clearly and unequivocally to the peace process in the name of the U.S. Government. The United States has not committed itself to this process just for the sake of the people of the region. The United States is a superpower with vital interests in the region. [words indistinct] The United States, which is a superpower and a partner in the peace process, has vital interests that it can safeguard by promoting this process and bringing it to a successful conclusion. We have heard with satisfaction the stands of U.S. President-elect Clinton, who has stressed that he personally and his administration will adhere to the peace process when he assumes power on 20 January. President-elect Clinton has stressed his adherence to the basis of U.S. policy. I believe we will have to wait for him to translate this into practice. I do not rule out that in the future he will adhere to the practical stands he has adopted since he was elected U.S. President.

It is a great honor for me to be a Foreign Ministry official and head of the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations. I am proud of the delegation member's adherence to and their faith in their homeland [words indistinct]. It is our duty to give the higher Lebanese political leaders a clear picture far from bright slogans reflecting the truth of the situation. Therefore, allow me to make no further comments until I meet with [words indistinct] and submit my report or reports.

## Al-Hariri Eager for Arab Coordination in Talks

*NC2711085992 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has said Lebanon is very eager for Arab coordination on the peace process. He said the objective of liberating all Lebanese territories will remain at the forefront of the Lebanese Government's interests. The government will always be keen to truly represent the Lebanese people's objectives and aspirations.

## Moroccan Envoy Ends Visit; Embassy To Open

*NC2511134492 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[Text] Moroccan Envoy Mohamed al-Azrawal returned to Morocco this morning after a visit to Lebanon. During the visit he informed Lebanese officials of Morocco's decision to open its embassy in Beirut soon.

## Hizballah's Qasim on Role of Resistance

*NC0112081092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah deputy secretary general, has said that the Zionist enemy will not halt its acts of aggression because its policies are hostile and expansionist.

In a radio interview, he added that the enemy's expansionist goals are not confined to the current borders and that in the future they will stretch to greater borders from the Nile to the Euphrates. He said that Israel's guns will remain directed at civilians and innocent people as a means of pressure during its negotiations and future expansionist schemes.

Answering a question on the role of the resistance in liberation, Shaykh Qasim said the role of the resistance is at the forefront and everyone should rally around it and carry out his duties in support of it.

His eminence said that there have been no contacts with Hizballah to halt its operations but there have been contacts to secure support.

Replying to another question on the Zionist threat to assassinate Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Nasrallah, he said these plots will not dissuade us from our resolve and stands, nor will they confuse us. Rather, he said, they will give us additional drive forward.

## Phalangist Party's Sa'adah on Internal Relations

*PM2711154092 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 27 Nov 92 pp 21, 25*

[Interview with Lebanese Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah by William Dahir in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Dahir] Some people say that your decision not to participate in government in these circumstances will enable you to devote your time to tackling conditions inside the Phalangist Party, which is suffering a great deal of fragmentation. Have you actually begun the process of reexamining the party's internal issues? How? And on what basis?

[Sa'adah] What we do is no secret. And the fragmentation which you said exists in Phalangist ranks is exaggerated. However, if we go into the details of the situation, we will find that this fragmentation is not present to the degree some people imagine. After I submitted my resignation from the government and before this resignation was accepted I—together with a large working team of old party officials who know the party's history, heritage, and struggle—focused on tackling all the mistakes made willingly or unwillingly. We also studied the issue of creating a continuity between the party's grass roots and leadership and discovered that the party's grass roots were very remote from the orientations of the party's leadership. The reason is that the party's organization, which rejected this continuity, suffered a great deal of imbalance and weakness.

Our party's organization centers on the grass roots, which represent the foundation of the Phalangist edifice. [passage omitted]

[Dahir] It is recorded against you that your relationship with the regime is not always as good as one might wish, since it experiences ups and downs. It is good sometimes and strained at other times, whereas your relationship with all political leaders is good, especially with those who in the past declared themselves your enemies. So what is the criterion governing your relationship with the regime?

[Sa'adah] If our relationship with parties which in the past declared themselves our enemies and of which we declared ourselves enemies is good to some extent and with some reservations, then the blame lies with the group which caused tension in the relationship between us and it. Anyone who is good at establishing relations with those who are distant is capable of establishing relations with those who are near. If these relations are not as good as one might wish, the cause is those who are near, not us.

At any rate, our relationship with the regime does not proceed from fixed positions and sensitivities. We support and applaud the regime if it does well, and we strongly oppose if it does badly. And no one is infallible, except God.

## Sa'adah Notes Dangers of Sectarianism

*NC2911154892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Nov 92*

["Excerpts" of speech by Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah at a rally in al-Ashrafiyah in Beirut on 29 November on the Phalangist Party's 56th anniversary—recorded]

[Text] Lebanon has not entered the stage of a solution yet; it is still in a period of truce. What Lebanon is currently going through is not the peace we wanted but a breather, which we are using to discuss the Lebanese issue in depth. Government officials are content with simple solutions while what is required is a solution commensurate with the problem. The officials believe everything is alright and that the state will function without obstacles or hurdles. However, reality is completely different. The shortcomings in the state's structure and performance are very clear. With the admission of several deputies, these shortcomings exist within the Chamber of Deputies and within the government itself.

The shortcomings the recent parliamentary elections have caused and the intensity and size of the boycott are too great to be healed by time, regardless of whether the boycott or the participation in these elections was right or wrong. Government officials should not behave as if nothing has happened, this gives them an excuse to not deal with the causes of the problem.

No one should think that repression will continue and that the anguished party is powerless and cannot rise up. Lebanon's modern history is full of examples.

I warn that the fuse is getting closer to the powder keg. The government must take steps to forestall a big conflagration. We are not the enemies of the state, but we do not support just any kind of state.

We have recently witnessed a growth of fundamentalist movements that make no effort to conceal their strategy to establish an Islamic government. In the name of their senior scholars and theoreticians, these movements have declared their short-term intentions and aims. The Christians of Lebanon feel repressed. Who will reassure them? Do they feel reassured by their decreasing numbers, by their waves of emigration, by their refugee camps, by the election law, by the elections, by some of their representatives who are chosen for them by others, by the threatened freedoms, or by the specters of massacres? [applause]

Are we really one civilian society cohesive in all walks of life? Or, are we several societies that meet together and interact but do not participate in all aspects of legislation and livelihood? Have we in Lebanon bypassed the Islamic tendency, the Christian tendency, and the religious tendencies in Christianity and Islam? Have the Christians become one bloc? Have the Muslims become united? Have the Christians and Muslims been united in one unified national framework? Amid this tense atmosphere, persistent voice are rising, urging the early abolition of political sectarianism. These voices ignore the fact that the we know the conditions and prerequisites for making such a fateful, historic, and grave decision.

### Phalangist Support for President Said Unwavering

*NC2711175692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] Deputy Phalangist Party leader lawyer Munir al-Haj said after meeting Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi this morning that the visit comes within the framework of meetings party members are holding. He said the main policy the Phalangist Party has been pursuing since its foundation is to support the presidency and the party will not divert from this course, no matter what it costs.

Responding to a question on rumors that the government will boycott the Phalangist festival on 29 November, al-Haj said that he cannot believe such rumors because he knows how hospitable President al-Hirawi is and how he loves everyone. The president rises above all considerations to continue his line of meetings and interaction with everyone.

On canceling political sectarianism, the deputy Phalangist Party leader said: First of all, we demand the cancellation of all aspects of sectarianism, because canceling political sectarianism alone through a decision would lead to a regime that is uglier than the regime of political sectarianism.

### Phalangist Interviewed on Opposition, Syria

*NC2811184392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Text] In a press interview, Phalangist Party Secretary General Karim Paqraduni has warned that repressing the Lebanese opposition means that democratic sentiment in this country has been lost. He criticized the current so-called bandwagon logic that excludes those who are not attending. He said this type of logic proceeds from an authoritarian mentality that the public rejects.

Paqraduni commented on the Lebanese-Syrian relationship, pointing out that such a relationship cannot be forged by military forces but through rapprochement between the two nations.

He remarked that the Lebanese opposition disappointed the people by first agreeing to boycott the parliamentary elections and then failing to formulate an opposition political program.

Explaining his criticism of the government, Paqraduni said it is not limited to the current government because he used to say the same thing in the seventies. He added that the Lebanese government system does not allow 60 percent of the people under the age of 30 to participate in the decisionmaking process.

On another issue, Paqraduni said the Syrian Army entered Lebanon to preserve its unity, not to alter its system.

### Radio Sees 'Inevitable Dawn' Coming to Egypt

*NC2911111092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Station commentary: "The Regime's Absurd Claims Have Failed To Hide the Facts From the Egyptian Public"]

[Text] While arrests in Egypt continue, the Camp David government has asked the U.S. Administration to hand over Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, an al-Jihad Organization leader currently residing in New York, so it can put him on trial as a security threat wanted by the Egyptian regime's judiciary in connection with cases of so-called terrorism.

The Camp David regime's Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa alleged a few days ago, in a statement to his government's parliament, that only 1,123 people currently are being detained under the Egyptian Emergency Law. He repeated the Egyptian authorities' allegations that some Arab and Islamic countries are inciting and backing Egyptian organizations in order to undermine security and topple the regime. It should be recalled that the current state of emergency was declared in Egypt following the traitor Anwar al-Sadat's assassination in 1981 at the hands of a group of Egyptian mujahidin who expressed the Egyptian people's true sentiment, which rejects peace and normalization with the entity that usurps Jerusalem.

Since that time the Emergency Law has been a horrible tool of repression in the regime's hands, enabling the security forces and investigative agencies to detain people for indefinite periods. Mubarak's regime tightened its iron grip in June 1992 when its parliament approved new provisions stiffening penalties and increasing the regime security personnel's powers to deal with opposition forces and political parties. All these arbitrary measures, however, failed to intimidate the Egyptian people or make them abandon their rejection of the corruption that is rife among senior officials of Husni Mubarak's government who have brought the economic situation to an unenviable impasse. Debts stand at nearly $40 billion and the government cannot even pay the interest on these debts to U.S. and European banks, which makes the vast majority of the public face crushing economic hardships for which there is no foreseeable solution. Last month's earthquake tragedy exposed the widespread corruption in the Camp David regime. The Egyptian people became convinced that the primary objective of the ruling regime's henchmen is to make a quick profit by robbing the state's resources by illegal methods that are detrimental to the people's food and housing needs. It is nearly impossible to secure these necessities now. Even when a citizen succeeds in buying an apartment, he cannot live securely in it because the stench of the low-quality cement imported by the regime's pillars now has become mixed with the odor of the corpses of victims who died in the Egyptian capital's poor residential quarters.

Both the people and the regime know these facts. Therefore, the regime's smokescreens and misleading campaigns to blame the country's poor conditions on foreign countries and groups are destined to fail miserably. The Egyptian people are well aware of the regime's absurd claims and lies. A close inspection of current events in Egypt prove that the regime has failed to divert domestic opinion away from those who are chiefly responsible for this tragedy.

Despite the government's brutal repression, the mujahidin vanguards continue to strike painful blows at the henchmen of the corrupt regime which opened the doors wide to Zionist economic and cultural invasion and constantly seeks to deny the Egyptian Muslim people their history and identity.

In conclusion, we say that the darkest hour of the night bears within itself the promise of the inevitable dawn.

## Soldiers Warned Against Returning to Occupied Area

*NC3011123792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] According to security sources, the border militia [South Lebanese Army] manning the Kafr Tibnit crossing point has warned a number of Lebanese Army soldiers not to return to their villages inside the occupied border area if they continue to perform their military service in the other areas.

The agent militia encircled a number of houses in al-Tayyibah, Marj 'Uyun District and ransacked them on the pretext of searching for weapons and explosives. Reports said theOagent militia abused and threatened the owners of these houses.

## Rocket Fired at Israeli Post 30 Nov

*NC0112110592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] Citing security sources, REUTER reports that a Katyusha rocket was fired in the direction of an Israeli Army barracks in al-'Ayshiyah in the security strip yesterday afternoon, without causing casualties among the Israelis.

This incident marks the return of Katyushas to the south for the first time since 12 November. After the Katyusha firing, artillery bombardment targeted South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions adjacent to Iqlim al-Tuffah. The Israeli Army retaliated by shelling Iqlim al-Tuffah and Birkat Jabbur in western al-Biqa'.

## Militia, Israeli Forces Rake, Shell Areas in South

*NC0112102392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] Security sources have reported that a South Lebanese Army militia armored force this morning advanced toward height 910, overlooking al-Dallafah farm and Qilya, in western al-Biqa'. The force raked the surrounding forests with machine guns and rocket launchers.

Birkat Jabbur, Jabal Abu Rashid, and the surrounding forests in the southern edge of western al-Biqa' came under shellfire last night from artillery positions of the occupation forces in Ibil al-Saqy. Flares were fired along the contact lines from Jabal al-Dahr to Taw'amat Niha. The militia forces in the Taw'amat Niha position carried out raking operations at different times, using machine guns and medium-caliber weapons.

## Vice President Writes on Human Rights

*JN2911150592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial contributed by Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah under the headline "Human Rights Between Ethical Values and Political Ends," the newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the stands of some Western states on the issue of human rights. These states, he argues, deem themselves judge and jury at the same time. They issue judgments lacking in both objectivity and integrity—judgments that are motivated by political ends.

The vice president adds: When Western quarters and states address this issue, they address it from their own perspective, in a manner that promotes their economic purposes and interests. They want others to honor their version of human rights. These quarters have failed to heed the human rights situation in their own countries. There might be gross human rights violations in their own countries, the most basic manifestation of which is racial discrimination.

Dr. Mashariqah goes on to say: These quarters do not speak of human rights as manifestations of ethical or legal values. Indeed, they are motivated by political purposes determined by how they view targeted countries and their ties. Hence, national struggle is deemed violence and efforts to resist aggression and occupation are deemed terrorist acts.

Mashariqah says: These countries have chosen to remain completely silent over the crimes committed by many racist countries, especially Israel, which is committing crimes against Arabs. The organizations and states which profess to have an alleged concern for human rights have failed to heed Israeli crimes. The motive behind the stands of most Western states and their organizations on the issue of human rights is to put pressure on the countries, the policies of which are governed by national or pan-Arab interests which do not fall in harmony with their purposes and interests.

## Commentary Urges Comprehensive Peace

*JN2911155292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Israelis have gone back to harping on the tune of a halfway solution to peace. When they talk about halfway solutions, they mean bargaining over the Arabs' right to their land. In other words, the Israeli proposal for halfway solutions contradicts, in letter and spirit, a basic principle on which the peace process is based; that is, the equation of land for peace.

It has become clear that the rulers of Israel are very far from the Middle East peace desired by Arabs and the world.

While the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference stipulated the holding of talks on a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts of the conflict based on UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle, the rulers of Israel continue to refuse to return the land and recognize rights. They insist on submitting the Palestinian people to another period of occupation and subjugation of no less than five years. Moreover, they are proposing to Syria a partial withdrawal in return for full peace and open borders. Meanwhile, they are subjecting Lebanon to a series of aggressions and threats to commit it to a separate peace agreement and security arrangements at the expense of Lebanese territory and sovereignty.

When French President Francois Mitterrand reminded the Israelis that they should understand Arab demands, that the United Nations decided to establish a Palestinian state in 1947 according to the partition resolution, that the Palestinians' right to their own state still exists, that it is hard for people to live without a homeland, and that it is very hard for these people to live in their homeland without a state and institutions, the Israelis could only respond by saying that Mitterrand is a face from the past and that he is carrying proposals that are totally unacceptable.

Hence, President al-Asad's statements on the comments and comprehensiveness of the solution are very important. In his interview with the American news magazine TIME, President al-Asad expressed the Arab stand that accepts no bargaining or discussion. He also expressed the will of the Arab people in all their countries. President al-Asad made it clear that a middle solution to the land issue, which the rulers of Israel are promoting, is out of the question. He said that no one in Syria agrees to cede a single inch of land.

President al-Asad wondered: What would prompt Arabs to work for peace if peace would mean offering their territories to Israel?

President al-Asad also clarified that separate solutions do not achieve peace. Indeed, such solutions could lead to results that totally contradict peace. Hence, there is no alternative to adhering to the bases of the Madrid conference.

Peace cannot be achieved at the expense of land. It also cannot be based on separate deals that have proven futile. The volatile Middle East crisis can only be treated through a comprehensive solution that provides security, stability, and tranquility to all countries of the region.

If the occupation were providing Israel with security, Israel would not be involved in the Washington talks today. The question that poses itself persistently is: Why are the Israelis prevaricating on the achievement of peace and avoiding its requirements given the fact that

since 1948 they have been shouting for peace? Why are Israelis prevaricating while Arabs are offering them peace—a real, well-established peace that is in harmony with resolutions of international legitimacy and UN principles and charters?

Is there any sensible person in this world who thinks that the Arabs will offer both peace and land to Israel? How can any Arab party justify to its people and to the people of the world its relinquishment of land, rights, and legitimacy, as well as its submission to usurpation and aggression? Hence, President Hafiz al-Asad asserted that Israel's logic of partial withdrawal and separate solutions is rejected.

The distorted and incomplete peace demanded of the Arabs and which Israel is seeking to impose on them through influential countries, is completely out of the question. First, it is rejected. Second, there is no hope for it to succeed. Third, it is a blatant violation of international law.

We do not believe that any world leader could be dragged into Israel's position, which calls for a distorted and incomplete peace—a position which in reality is a cover for occupation and expansion.

As the eighth round of bilateral talks approaches, it is time for the rulers of Israel to choose between peace and land. Peace and occupation do not coexist and there is no hope for the occupation to conquer the will of the Arabs and rob them of their territories and rights, no matter how long the struggle lasts.

## TISHRIN Cited on Reaction to Israeli Armament

*JN3011084292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on Israel's military arsenal, TISHRIN says: The Israelis, who daily reveal their wishes to possess more modern and sophisticated weapons, are in fact showing that they do not care about the prerequisites of peace or regional security and peace. They even aim to spread confusion and tension in the region through stockpiling these weapons. Israel has become a real arsenal along with its destructive, terrorist, and aggressive tendency to control and usurp Arab rights.

TISHRIN expresses astonishment at Israel's clear announcement—through Rabin—that its military force will increase and become stronger while the world remains unconcerned about this aggressive arrogance. Meanwhile, the world becomes furious if Syria obtains any type of weapon to defend itself, protect its security, and respond to the Israeli occupation of Arab land.

TISHRIN adds: We are not surprised at the Israeli rulers' statements in which they declare their policies that are based on possession of weapons and military superiority, and which reveal their pretexts for holding on to Arab land. We are surprised, however, at the silence toward this.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: If the entire world admits that peace cannot be achieved while Israel continues to occupy Arab land, a just and comprehensive peace requires Israel's complete response to the requirements of this objective, including a cessation of armament. This was reiterated by President Hafiz al-Asad in his statement to TIME magazine, when he said: We are willing to help achieve a breakthrough with regard to weapons in the region provided that a balance is achieved. We demand the elimination of the mass destruction weapons that we and Israel possess. To achieve greater security, they should destroy their weapons, and we should destroy ours.

## AL-BA'TH Notes U.S. Letter to Israel

*JN0112072392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[From the press review]

[Text] In its commentary today, AL-BA'TH highlights the U.S. acknowledgement that Israel is obstructing the peace talks, saying: Finally, the United States has said what it should have said some time ago. Acting U.S. Secretary of State Eagleburger sent a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in which he held the Rabin government responsible for not advancing a single step in the peace talks.

AL-BA'TH adds: This acknowledgement has not restored our rights as Arabs. This is not the first time that Washington criticizes Tel Aviv. But it is very important for the United States to acknowledge that Israel is responsible for obstructing the peace talks in Washington.

The paper adds: What is more important, however, is that words should be accompanied by deeds, especially since the United States is almost the only party that can influence the Israeli position. Here, we are certainly not asking Washington to side with the Arabs. What we want from it is to support the implementation of international resolutions regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, no more, no less. We also want Washington to support international legitimacy in everything related to international relations.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: The significant point about the U.S. acknowledgement is that it confirms the truth of what the Arabs are saying, namely, that Israel alone is the obstacle to achieving a just, comprehensive peace in the region, and that the Arabs are working seriously and sincerely to achieve the desired peace.

AL-BA'TH concludes: After this, it must be reasserted that complete and absolute coordination among the

Article regarding the peace talks is more than necessary, in addition to strict adherence to the basic constants of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

## India

### Air Force To Receive 20 MiG-29's From Russia

*BK2711151692 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 24 Nov 92 p 1*

[By Pravin Sawhney]

[Text] New Delhi—In a deal worth Rs [rupees] 1,400 crore, India will soon receive one squadron (20 aircraft) MiG-29 aircraft from Russia. The defence authorities are tight-lipped on the crucial issue of how the money would be paid—in hard currency or under some other arrangement.

Moreover, with three Mirage 2000 aircraft already in France for major engine overhauls, move is afoot to open Mirage overhauling line with Dassault company's assistance at HAL in Bangalore. The project is estimated to cost Rs 500 crore in foreign exchange.

The MiG-29 deal will include 18 aircraft, two trainers and a whole range of ground support equipment. This will form the fourth MiG-29 squadron, all deployed in the western sector.

During the Defence Minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, and Air Chief Marshal N.C.Suri's Moscow visits in September and early November, the issue of joint production and overhauling facilities of air superiority MiG-29 aircraft were discussed in detail. Economics apart, Kremlin, has agreed to setting up an overhaul unit for the aircraft in India as a beginning. This project has been estimated to cost about Rs 550 crore. Top sources, however, are unwilling to put a time-schedule for this programme, which in all probability, may only fructify during the expected visit of the Russian President, Mr Boris Yeltsin, to India early next year.

The benefits of having a MiG-29 aircraft overhaul unit are enormous. While Malaysia, which has acquired the Russian MiG-29 has already evinced interest in getting support facilities from India, Iran is a potential client in this field. Air Chief Marshal Suri, who is currently on an official visit to Teheran, is expected to discuss the range of facilities which India may be able to offer once the joint production of the aircraft is commenced.

Joint-production of MiG-29 would be the next stage and is understood to have been suggested in the Moscow-proposed defence cooperation. This implies that for the first time, India would be dealing with Russia as an equal partner, and not as a client state it has been always. Joint production means sharing equally the finances, joint research, development and exports. "This will, however, only happen if the joint economic committee co-chaired by the Finance Minister, Mr Manmohan Singh, and Russian Secretary of State is able to make meaningful headway in resolving the existing financial stalemate," observed a top officer.

Meanwhile, the 42 Mirage-2000 aircraft acquired from Dassault, France, in 1985, will be soon due for overhauling, depending on the flying hours done by them. Dassault has undertaken "ageing scheme" evaluation of the aircraft already sent there a month ago. This means that detailed study of the metal fatigue, engine and compressor ageing under sub-continental conditions is being done to facilitate further overhauling of aircraft indigenously, when the line gets procured by India.

### Joint Economic Committee With Bangladesh Meets

*BK2711163492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] The first meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint Economic Committee concluded in New Delhi with a decision to undertake a joint market survey in Bangladesh to identify new items for export to India, joint ventures and investments. The one-day meeting was attended by an 11-member Bangladeshi delegation led by M. Mosharaf Khan, president of Dhaka Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, while Dhiruv M. Swadney, president of Confederation of Indian Industries, led the 30-member Indian side at the talks. Bangladesh proposed setting up a joint task force to work out detail plans and programs for formulating joint venture projects. The proposal has been accepted.

### Supreme Court Rules on Temple-Mosque Dispute

*BK0112131592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] The Supreme Court today directed both the center and the Uttar Pradesh government to give immediately wide publicity to the symbolic kar seva [voluntary service to build temple at disputed site] scheduled to start from the sixth of this month as assured by the state government. A division bench comprising Mr. Justice M.L. Venkatachaliah and Mr. Justice G.N. Ray said that the publicity will caution all concerned about the limitation and purpose of the gathering. They recalled their order passed on Saturday last [28 November] saying kar seva should not include any construction activity or moving a building material to the acquired land and will be restricted to ritual and prayers. The court adjourned the case till Friday.

Left parties have urged the prime minister to take serious action to defuse the situation in Ayodhya. At a meeting with Mr. Narasimha Rao in New Delhi yesterday, Mr. Somnath Chatterji, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], and Mr. Indrajit Gupta, CPI [Communist Party of India], pointed out that there is serious apprehension over the security of the disputed structure and steps should be taken to protect it. Briefing newsmen today, Mr. Somnath Chatterji, said the center should take over the disputed land as it is obligated to implement the Supreme Court order under the Constitution. He said the status quo should be maintained till the problem is resolved through negotiations or by court verdict.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded immediate withdrawal of paramilitary forces from Ayodhya. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, the party president, Lt. Murli Manohar Joshi, alleged that the forces are stationed there without the permission of the Uttar Pradesh government. Replying to questions, Dr. Joshi said that the nature of kar seva to be undertaken from the sixth of this month at Ayodhya will be decided by the sants [Hindu priests].

The left parties have criticized the BJP for what they called confrontationist stance of the party on the Ayodhya issue despite a clear directive by the Supreme Court. In a press statement issued at the end of a meeting in New Delhi today, they also expressed grave concern over the BJP leader's rath yatra [chariot journey] from Varanasi and Mathura.

Meanwhile, the convener of the Babri Masjid [Mosque] Movement Coordination Committee, Syed Shahabuddin, has expressed the apprehension that the apex court's order on symbolic kar seva at the disputed sight is liable to be misinterpreted by the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh—right wing Hindu militant organization]-VHP [vishwa Hindu parishad, World Hindu Council]-BJP combine. He demanded the center's prompt intervention if the state government fails to prevent construction as ordered by the court.

The specially appointed court observer in Ayodhya, Mr. Tej Shankar, inspected the shilanyas [temple foundation stone] site and the remaining portion of the 2.77 acres of acquired land today. After carrying out the extensive survey, Mr. Shankar said so far he has not noticed any infringement of the Supreme Court directive. Mr. Tej Shankar was appointed observer by the chief justice of the Allahabad High Court following the supreme court's order.

### Congress-I Welcomes Decision

*BK2911093092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] The Congress-I has welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to allow a symbolic kar seva [voluntary community service for temple construction] at Ayodhya and hoped that the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad, World Hindu Council] and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] will sincerely accept the court decision preventing any constructions on the acquired land. Addressing a press conference in Pune today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, ruled out the possibility of the dismissal of the UP [Uttar Pradesh] government in the event of constitutional breakdown in the state.

The BJP has hoped that the Allahabad High Court will give its verdict soon on the validity of the acquisition of the land adjacent to Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] complex. The party vice president, Mr. K.L. Sharma, said in New Delhi today that the Supreme Court has requested the Allahabad High Court to pronounce an early verdict on the issue. He said if the verdict comes before the 6th of next month, it will solve a lot of problems.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has welcomed the Supreme Court's order disallowing any construction activity at the disputed site in Ayodhya. In a statement in New Delhi today, the politburo said the Kalyan Singh government in Uttar Pradesh must ensure strict compliance with the apex court orders following the mobilization of support by the VHP. The party urged the Center to be always alert to ensure that court orders are not violated.

### Hindu Council Criticizes Court Orders on Temple

*BK2911151092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the security arrangements are being further strengthened in and around the disputed complex at Ayodhya in view of the proposed kar seva [voluntary community service for temple construction]. According to police sources, the district administration, Faizabad, has asked for more companies of PAC [Provincial Armed Constabulary] for deployment around the disputed site.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has alleged that the Center is planning to take action against the Uttar Pradesh government and said it can lead to serious consequences. The party vice president, Mr. Sikander Bakht, and General Secretary Mr. Madanlal Khurana said in New Delhi that their party will uphold nationalism at any cost. They accused the Center of deliberately delaying a decision on the Ayodhya issue despite an assurance to religious leaders to find a solution within four months.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] has criticized the Supreme Court judgment on the Ayodhya issue and said the proposed kar seva will be undertaken as per the earlier program but a final decision on its form will be taken on the 4th of next month.

The Janata Dal Minority Committee has demanded dismissal of the Uttar Pradesh government and full protection to the disputed shrine in Ayodhya. The national executive of the committee, in a resolution at its meeting in New Delhi, also demanded that the Bommai Committee report on Ayodhya be immediately tabled in parliament.

All India Babri Masjid Action Committee, AIBMAC, leaders today urged the Center to take extra precautions around the disputed structure. The AIBMAC convener, Mr. Zafaryab Jilani, Mohammad Azam Khan, and Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Siddiqi in a joint statement said that the latest undertaking given by the Uttar Pradesh government to the Supreme Court and the subsequent

statements by the BJP and VHP indicate that these parties are not yet mentally prepared to withdraw their program of kar seva.

### Uttar Pradesh Parties Call for Action Against State

*BK2811130292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, 10 opposition parties have urged the governor to recommend to the center stern action against the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government in view of the situation in Ayodhya. In a memorandum submitted in Lucknow today, the opposition parties said the Ayodhya situation is deteriorating and the people feel terrorized. They pointed out that volunteers have started reaching Ayodhya to resume the kar seva [voluntary service to build the temple] despite court orders. The opposition parties include the Janata Dal-B, Janata Dal-A, Samajwadi Party, SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party], CPI, CPI-M [Communist Party of India - Marxist] and the Indian People's Front.

The National Unity Front says, if the kar seva is resumed in Ayodhya, it will harm the secular character of the country. In a statement in New Delhi, the front said that both the Hindus and the Muslims want a negotiated settlement of the Ayodhya issue and do not favor any confrontation.

The Akhil Bharatiya Sant Samaj, in another statement, appealed to the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad], the BJP, and the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] not to go ahead with the proposed kar seva.

### Government Rules Out Early Elections in Jammu, Kashmir

*BK3011083692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] The government today ruled out the possibility of holding early elections in Jammu and Kashmir saying that the atmosphere in the state is not congenial for polls. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Rajya Sabha during question hour that elections will be held only when normalcy returns. He said the parliamentary team which visited Jammu and Kashmir recently also held the same view. Mr. Chavan said that New Delhi is aware that certain Islamic countries are taking interest in what they call liberation of Kashmir and reiterated that such interference will not be tolerated. He said the government is aware of militant camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and said the matter has been taken up through diplomatic channels. The home minister also appealed to political parties to join the government efforts to defeat the disinformation campaign on Kashmir by some vested interests.

### Militants Gun Down 16 Bus Passengers in Punjab

*BK0112075992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] In Punjab, militants gunned down 16 bus passengers and injured three at Sadwankord village in Ludhiana district this morning. A police spokesman said in Chandigarh that a group of militants boarded the bus at Jagraon and stopped it near Sidhwan and shot dead 15 passengers. The Punjab Roadways Bus was going from Moga to Ludhiana. Senior officials have rushed to the spot. Further details are awaited.

### Commander of Militant Outfit Killed in Kashmir

*BK2811162292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Text] The fourth round of talks between the center and the Jammu and Kashmir government and representatives of the two associations from Ladakh was held in New Delhi today to discuss institutional arrangements for the overall development of the region.

Representatives of the Ladakh Buddhist Association [LBA] and the Ladakh Muslim Association [LMA] later called on the home minister. They told Mr. S.B. Chavan that they have decided to resolve their differences and to work together for the development of the region. Mr. Chavan expressed happiness over the lifting of the social boycott call in the region and called on both sides to create a congenial atmosphere. The two delegations were led by Mr. (Bogston Chivang) of the LBA and Mr. Abdul Ghani Sheikh of the LMA.

The self-styled area commander of a militant outfit is among the eight militants killed in the Kashmir valley since yesterday evening. Security forces arrested 16 others in search operations.

### Six Maoist Guerrillas Killed in Andhra Pradesh

*BK0112064992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, six Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] were killed and a police subinspector was injured in an encounter near a village in Karimnagar District last night. According to police officials, one of the Naxalites was a key figure. The gun battle lasted for about seven hours. Some arms and ammunition were also recovered.

### Government To Cut Subsidies, Control Expenditure

*BK3011132892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] The finance minister says the government will cut subsidies and control its expenditure. Speaking at a conference in New Delhi today, Dr. Manmohan Singh said no budgetary support will be given to industry

except for transport and energy sectors in future. He said the government will restrict the budget deficits and inflation to 5 percent.

### 22 Foreign Investment Proposals Cleared

*BK0112033292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] The government has cleared 22 more foreign investment proposals for nearly 45 crore rupees. Seven proposals approved are 100 percent export-oriented units. An official press release said with this, the empowered committee has so far cleared foreign investment proposals of over 500 crore rupees.

### Commentary Views Government's Economic Policy

*BK3011122192 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[A.K. Bhattacharya commentary: "New Economic Policies and Trade Unions"]

[Text] India's capital is not new to processions and rallies. But the massive rally of workers organized at the India Gate lawns of late was not a just show of strength. More importantly, it was a political message of great significance to the ruling party. The long procession leading up to the meeting was a clear reminder to the Congress-I government at the center that its new economic policy is yet to be accepted by some sections of this country. Quite appropriately, the massive rally had found its echo in parliament. In the Rajya Sabha, the opposition parties staged a walkout in protest against what they called the government's anti-worker economic policies which in turn meant an unqualified support to the thousands of workers staging the rally a couple of kilometers away from parliament.

The walkout had other political ramifications for the government also. The walkout was joined by the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] members of the Rajya Sabha. AIADMK has been a Congress ally and has never supported any antigovernment stand in parliament. No wonder the prime minister thought it fit to intervene in the Lok Sabha debate on the government's economic policies. The Lok Sabha members belonging to the left parties wanted to know during zero hour how the government would respond to the massive workers rally at the India Gate lawns. Mr. Rao of course asserted that the government was conscious of the problems faced by workers and assured members that he would look into any specific cases where reforms had caused hardship to the working class.

Going by what the trade union leaders said while addressing the rally, merely an assurance by the prime minister would not be sufficient to assuage the grievances of the working class. Leaders representing AINTUC [All India National Trade Unions Congress] of the Congress-I and BMS [Bharat Mazdoor Sangh] of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] were of course conspicuous by their absence at the meeting. But specific charges brought against the government need to be answered.

These charges pertain to the controversial Industrial Relations Amendment Bill which the workers fear will deny them the right to go on strike. The proposed export-import exit policy for the labor came in for a trenchant attack from all trade union leaders. They feared that the implementation of the exit policy would lead to more unemployment and retrenchment. There was a general apprehension that the government would introduce a wage freeze and withdraw general welfare measures aimed at benefiting the common people including workers. At another level, the trade union leaders lambasted the government for disinvesting its shares in public sector undertakings and extending an open invitation to multinational companies.

Quite clearly, much of the fears and criticism of the trade union leaders are based on inadequate information and incomplete comprehension of the measures proposed by the government under its new economic policy. For instance, there was no move to deny workers the right to go on strike or introduce a wage freeze. No legislation has been proposed to throttle the voice of workers and snatch from them the right to agitate against what they feel the wrong policies of the management. The much-talked-about exit policy also has to be seen in the correct perspective. What the government plans to do is to wind up only those companies which are unviably sick. Even in such cases, the interests of workers would be the first priority. In any case the exit policy thus have provisions for handsome compensation to workers. Already over 14,000 workers of sick mills of the National Textile Corporation [NTC] have accepted the compensation and sought voluntary retirement. If 14,000 employees of NTC could find the package attractive, there is no reason why the exit policy should cause a scare for other workers in the country.

Finally, it is time India's trade union leaders realize that more competition in the industrial sector will mean more companies, more choices for workers for the employment, and more choices for the consumers to buy the products from. They need no longer remain prisoners of their ideologies.

### Ban on ULFA, NSCN Extended for 2 Years

*BK2811150192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Text] The center has extended the ban on the United Liberation Front of Assam—ULFA—and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland—NSCN. The two organizations were declared unlawful by separate notifications today for a period of two more years under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. Both the organizations were banned on 27 November 1990 for a period of two years.

### Ajit Singh Elected Parliament Group Leader

*BK2511163092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[Text] Mr. Ajit Singh has been elected leader of the parliamentary group by 20 dissident Janata Dal MP's. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, the general secretary of the Janata Dal-A, Mr. Sunil Shastri, said the group has authorised Mr. Ajit Singh to nominate other office-bearers.

### Tohra Reelected Sikh Temple Committee Chief

*BK3011133092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] The Akali leader, Mr. Gurcharan Singh Tohra, has been unanimously reelected president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] Committee. First elected in 1973, this is Mr. Tohra's 19th term in office.

## Iran

### Silkworm Launchers Reportedly Set Up on Abu Musa

*BC3011142692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Nov (MENA)—Citing Gulf military reports, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' says today that Iranian forces have prepared installations and launchpads for surface-to-surface Silkworm missiles on Abu Musa island, which Iran seized from the United Arab Emirates recently.

These reports say Iran has begun pursuing a "hostile" policy toward neighboring countries, particularly since its occupation of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb.

A Western diplomatic source has noted that the United States and the West are viewing these Iranian measures with concern, particularly with Abu Musa island located in a strategic area at the entrance to the gulf.

### Navy Chief Calls Arms Purchase Uproar Propaganda

*LD3011150792 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1415 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani, Iran's Navy commander, has said that the Islamic Republic of Iran strengthens its military capability only to preserve the country's defensive power. Speaking in a joint flag-raising ceremony of the Navy and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Adm. Shamkhani added that the West's uproar about Iran's arms purchases is merely an anti-Iranian propaganda campaign.

Referring to the world's arrogant propaganda about the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, the navy commander said this is indicative of the Islamic Republic of Iran's strong defense capability.

### IAEA Spokesman: Iran Keeping Nuclear Commitments

*LD3011191092 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Interview with International Atomic Energy Agency spokesman Hans Friedrich Mayer by station correspondent, in London on 30 November; Mayer speaks in English fading into correspondent's Persian translation—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Hans Friedrich Mayer, spokesman of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], stated the following in an exclusive interview with the the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

[Mayer] Iran is party to the non-proliferation treaty, and the IAEA verifies that the declared nuclear facilities in Iran are used for peaceful purposes only. This includes the 5-megawatt research center in Tehran which is used purely for peaceful purposes.

[Correspondent] Friedrich Mayer added that there are no signs at all that would give rise to concerns about any increase in Iran's nuclear capability; for this very reason, the IAEA has no need to re-inspect Iran's nuclear research centers.

The IAEA spokesman added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly declared its readiness to cooperate with the IAEA in Vienna and because of this, the agency has inspected various research centers in Iran and has found no sign that Iran is violating its commitments regarding the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, nor did it find any cases of suspicious applications in Iran's nuclear research centers. To date, no evidence whatsoever exists to support this doubt and suspicion.

In reply to our question as to why international pressure has not and is not focusing on the increasing dangerous and threatening nuclear capability of Israel, Mayer said:

[Mayer] I cannot answer that; this is a political question. [passage omitted]

### UN Envoy Comments on Aggression in Bosnia

*LP3011202992 Tehran IRNA in English 1819 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 30, IRNA—The carnage in Bosnia will not end without proper discharge of responsibility by other forums, particularly by the Security Council, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva warned today.

"This aggression will not be 'suppressed' as the UN Charter calls for, except if the aggressive force is checked by a greater defensive force," Sirous Nasseri [name as received] said at the 2nd extraordinary session of the UN Human Rights Commission on the situation in the former Yugoslavia.

He said international public opinion has already recognized the Serbian massacre of Europe's native Muslims as "genocide" and those who have committed such war crimes should be brought to justice.

The Iranian envoy likened the plundering of Bosnia to Zionist atrocities that led to the occupation of Palestine less than half a century ago and said that such transgression of basic rights has served as a model for the Serbs.

"The Serbs", he said "needed not to look too far away or too long back to find their arch-example. If Israel could drive out an entire Muslim nation from their territory, their land, their country, through brute force and sheer violence, and find international recognition once the mission was accomplished, then why should the same not be applied to the Muslim nation of Bosnia?"

Nasseri drew parallels between the limited sanctions and mild charges of human rights violations levelled against Israel and what so far has happened against the Serbs in the Balkans, and pointed out that "the Serbs have continued to receive signals that can only encourage them in their aggression.

"They (Serbs) were first told of no recognition for the new independent states. Soon they learned that there would be no international coalition to check their frightening force. After all Bosnia-Hercegovina is no Kuwait, there is no oil, no immediate interests. Then it was said that this tragedy may only be ended through negotiations. From there on any thing that may 'harm' these negotiations must be avoided, this has become so absurd that the Security Council hesitates to even meet formally on this issue - and only did so, recently, due to pressure from Islamic countries and that still to no serious avail."

At the end of the day, Nasseri believed, it was the occupied territory that would provide maximum bargaining power for the Serbs to negotiate a settlement and allow political pressure and sanctions to fade into the background.

Addressing the 2nd extraordinary session called by Iran, he said that such a view may appear cynical but the facts were overwhelming and even the most optimist conceded that there was little chance of returning to the status quo before the aggression started.

"The vicious pattern of the behaviour of the Serbs clearly shows their line of thought," noted Nasseri.

As foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) prepare for their meeting in Jeddah Tuesday, Nasseri said that the Muslim world had no choice but to remain sceptical about the behavior of the international community.

His central question was whether the emergence of a Muslim country in the heart of Europe was wholeheartedly welcome?

"Is it not the intention to manage things such that, at the outcome, not only the Serbian culprits but also the Muslim victims should be controlled through careful design and balance.

"Is it only incidental that no Islamic country, save a representative from the OIC, is invited to oversee the negotiations in Geneva, whereas nearly all Western countries receive constant invitation?"

He said the only way to save the Muslim population in Bosnia from extermination and extinction was for the UN to abide by its duty and where human rights was certainly one aspect of the tragedy.

The UN Human Rights Commission should not linger on legal jargon and lag behind the public recognition of the genocide. Responsibility lay solely on the Bosnian Serbs and the Republic of Serbia and procedures must be established to bring their war crimes to justice.

Nasseri said "as the Security Council continues to ignore and deny the right to self-defence for the Bosnian victims - the right that the UN Charter has granted under Article 51 - and their right to receive assistance - in any manner and field necessary, to quell aggression, avert subjugation and avoid suppression, their human rights shall also continue to be breached savagely."

He urged that "urgent action needs to be envisaged to gain access to the besieged cities and towns where Muslim populations are left at the mercy or, better said, cruelty of the Serbs with no hope for help from outside."

The Iranian envoy also called for immediate action to "save Muslims, Albanians, Croats, Hungarians, and other ethnic minorities in Kosovo, Sandzak and Vojvodina which are in imminent threat of another tragic and disastrous spill-over."

Whether with good or questionable intentions, he said the world community had to shoulder its responsibilities and this needed strong action, which was the only recourse to safeguard Bosnian Muslims in their homeland.

## Humanitarian Support to Azerbaijan To Continue

*LD3011175792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to accept up to 300 war wounded from the Republic of Azerbaijan per day. The governor general of the West Azerbaijan province, in an interview with the Central News Unit, said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its humanitarian support and assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan until full establishment of peace and security.

About supplying requirements of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan, he said: Work will start soon to extend the gas pipeline from Sufian, in East Azerbaijan province, to supply gas fuel to that region; and in order to supply foodstuff to the people of Nakhichevan, who are subjected to economic blockade, in addition to the foodstuff dispatched previously, the governorate of the East Azerbaijan province has erected the first bread-baking machine with daily capacity of two tonnes in the center of that republic, and similar machines will be made operational in other cities of Nakhichevan soon.

### Cairo Called 'Little Satan' Obeying 'Great Satan'

*LD3011145592 Tehran IRNA in English 1359 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—The Cairo regime is the "little Satan" that obeys the "great Satan" and seeks its interest in creating fresh turmoils to the detriment of regional nations, JOMHURI ESLAMI wrote Monday.

Commenting on the latest developments in Egypt, the daily's editorial said Egypt is presently on the threshold of a major development. The Cairo regime is a blight which has plagued Egypt and threatens the pillars of independence, freedom, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

The blight has spread to the extent that no difference could be found between policies of Tel Aviv and Cairo. Egypt asks Israel to help suppress the Muslims and the Islamic liberation movements in the region and at the same time Tel Aviv wishes to take advantage of potentials of Cairo.

Such policies reveal the true nature of regimes which feel desperate in the face of uprising of the Muslim nations. It is clear that such regimes are in a position of "inaction" and that the ball is in the court of the nations who wish to formulate the future policies of the region which preserve interests of Muslim nations and not those of the aliens and revive the lost grandeur of Islam and Muslim people.

The paper referred to the Algerian coup and the subsequent events in the region saying that such developments are serious warnings to those who are tempted to test the strength of nations.

Cairo leaders will certainly have no better fate than that of the defunct Sadat. The Cairo regime will not gain much from its efforts to involve other countries in the ongoing events. Cairo's ploys have been completely disclosed even to the regional Arab states who are aware that collaboration with it means that Israel will eventually penetrate their soil and even interfere in their decision- makings inside their palaces.

The regional Arab states are against the presence of Israel in their affairs and their inclination towards Israel is because they are under Washington's pressures and that they feel weak in the wake of two wars waged by Saddam in the past decade.

Now, the Arab countries are afraid of outbreak of another war in the region. But Cairo and its lackey states in the region are making efforts to spark a fire.

It is clear to all and even to the littoral Arab states that the fabricated crises in the region are produced by the paralyzed brains of Cairo leaders who seek to create a fresh tension and attain their goals as was the case in Iraq's wars against Iran and Kuwait.

The editorial said in conclusion that all regional states oppose a fresh turmoil in the region and, therefore, the Cairo regime feels isolated among Arabs and has resorted to Israel in order to achieve its goals.

### Papers Welcome ECO Expansion

*LD2911135592 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Two morning dailies here Sunday welcomed the admission of seven new members into the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and said it would further strengthen the organization. But they warned the ECO leaders against an "unchecked rise" in the number of its member states.

The extraordinary session of ECO foreign ministers, held in Islamabad, Pakistan, Saturday approved the membership of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan, bringing the number of the ECO members to ten.

Referring to the Islamabad session, the English daily TEHRAN TIMES said in its editorial that the addition of the new states would face the ECO founders (Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) with a "tremendous responsibility."

Since the new members were joining ECO with the hope that it would solve their economic problems, in the case that the three founders of the organization "fail to provide adequate answers to the economic problems of the new members, they will naturally seek other channels for the solution of their problems," said the daily.

It regretted that although the organization had been essentially formed to function as an "economic entity," it has most often been used as a basis of "political understanding" among the three original members.

The paper referred to the fact that the ten states, with about 300 million population and five million hectares of territory, would form one of the "largest" markets in the world which according to the daily could be called an "embryonic form of an Islamic common market."

It called on the leaders of ECO member states to take serious steps to bring about the kind of economic cooperation among the members which would help them to

overcome their economic difficulties and said ECO ministers of economy should prepare "comprehensive plans and programs" for the future activities of the members.

The daily concluded by saying that ECO's success in solving the problems of the member states would encourage other Islamic countries to join this great market.

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI editorializing on the same subject, called as "proper" ECO's positive response to membership of the new states and their admission into the regional grouping, because, said the daily, it would increase ECO's operative power and its activities on the one hand, and would foil the malicious stance of the West, the United States in particular, which intend to turn the Middle East into a "crisis spot", on the other.

Calling the ECO move as a "positive" step, the daily warned however that it should avoid moving towards an "unchecked rise" in the number of its member states. It referred to the fate of those initially effective organizations which had gradually become frustrated through unnecessary increase in their members, and pointed to the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) as a clear example.

Comparing ECO and NAM, the daily recommended the ECO members to make decisions very carefully and foresightedly so that it would lead to proper steps in its expansion. Experience has shown that quantity was not always a privilege by itself, rather it could be taken as a negative and preventive means, said the daily. In order to avoid this, the daily added, all of the ECO members should take into consideration the public and regional interests and give priority to the interest of the organization rather than themselves.

"The important issue is that we should keep the principles and aspirations first and then increase our activities within the framework of these principles which means not to sacrifice quality for quantity," concluded the paper.

## Outcome of OPEC Meeting Welcomed

*LD2811122492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1057 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The oil ministers of the OPEC countries have arrived at an agreement, following three days of intensive talks, on the OPEC production ceiling for the first quarter of 1993. According to that agreement, OPEC's daily production has been set at 24,582,000 barrels from 1 December 1992 to the end of March 1993.

The 13-member OPEC meeting was held at a time when, because of ample supplies, oil prices were declining on world markets—which was unprecedented in view of the cold weather and seasonal demand. Meanwhile, some OPEC member had embarked on overproduction because the quotas were not precise. Therefore, experts in oil matters believed that it was not possible for OPEC to arrive at an agreement to raise the oil price base to $21 a barrel. The OPEC ministers proved however that, despite political differences among them, they can maintain OPEC's unity.

Among other issues was the departure of Ecuador from the 32-year-old organization. Though Ecuador lacks substantial output, OPEC hopes it will solve its economic problems and return to the family.

Oil experts believe that the production ceiling of 24,582,000 barrels per day in the cold season is very likely to firm up prices provided the OPEC members keep within their quotas.

The meeting set a production ceiling of 8.4 million barrels per day for Saudi Arabia and 3.5 million barrels per day for Iran. Though capable of producing 4 million barrels per day, the Islamic Republic of Iran had a quota of nearly 3.4 million. The Iranian quota has now been raised by 350,000 barrels per day through this new OPEC agreement.

In any event, OPEC's 92d meeting was a great test for the oil producing countries' organization—and OPEC passed the test with flying colors. We can be sure that if commitments in the 92d meeting are honored fully the oil market will be firm and strong during the next three months.

## Interest in Shares of Austrian Oil Company Noted

*AU3011102392 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 30 Nov 92 p 13*

[Hans V. Haumer report: "Iran Interested in Share in Austrian Petroleum Corporation"]

[Text] Vienna—The Iranian oil industry will examine whether it might buy some shares in the Austrian Petroleum Corporation, OeMV, Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said in an exclusive interview with DER STANDARD. Nationalized Industries Minister Viktor Klima has already discussed this issue with him. It has been agreed that the Iranian state oil company will be provided with sufficient documents about the OeMV.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i affirmed that Iran has offered to the OeMV, as it has to a number of international oil companies, that it will participate in the development of an oil field. So far, however, cooperation with the OeMV has not yet been effected.

In addition to Iran, there are a number of interested parties, to whom Klima has recently been talking. Last week he contacted the director general of the biggest French oil company, Elf Aquitaine, on this matter. The

Austrian Government is trying to find as many interested people as possible for the sale of the republic's share of 45 percent in the OeMV.

Higher Subsidies [subhead]

Participation in the OeMV would be one piece in the puzzle of the expansion plans of the Iranian oil industry. Aqazadeh announced that Iran is to expand its production capacity to 4.5 million barrels per day, which is about 620,000 tonnes, by March next year. At the moment, a maximum of 4 million barrels per day can be produced.

"We only want to reach the capacities that we had before the war with Iraq." In the 1970's the Iranians exported up to 5.2 million barrels per day.

Currently they are still far short of these amounts. The daily production quota granted to Iran by the OPEC conference last week is 3.49 million barrels (one barrel equals 159 liters).

Sober Resume [subhead]

During the negotjstions the Iranian delegation explained that it would not accept a quota below 3.8 million barrels.

Therefore, the Iranian minister gives a rather sober resume: "This agreement is better than nothing." Iran has contented itself with a lower amount for the benefit of stabilizing the oil prices.

Asked whether Saudi Arabia did not get off best, since it was able to maintain its high quotas, Aqazadeh-Kho'i points to the capacities of the Saudis. They can raise their oil production to up to 9 million barrels power day. From this point of view, the 8.39 million barrels they have been granted are already a reduction.

In Aqazadeh-Kho'i's view, a lifting of the UN trade embargo against Iraq is not in sight. Thus, Iraqi oil production remains at the low level of 500,000 barrels. For the other OPEC countries this means that they do not have to give up any portion of their production quotas for the benefit of Iraq.

Over the past few weeks Iran paid $260 million in compensation out of court to the two U.S. oil companies Sun Oil and Atlantic Richfield Corporation, Aqazadeh-Kho'i said. These two companies had been expropriated during the revolution in 1979.

## Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tours Yazd Province

### Visits 'Massive' Uranium Mines

*NC3011135492 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1900 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, currently visiting Yazd Province, visited the iron ore mine at Chadormalu. After inspecting the various phases of extracting iron ore, the president met a group of experts and employees from this complex and stressed the need to treat the implementation of the Chadormalu project seriously. He expressed hope that the barren wastelands around the mines in Yazd Province will be populated and developed with income from the mines so that life may proliferate in the area.

During the course of this visit, the president had an unscheduled meeting with the complex's workers and familiarized himself at close quarters with their situation regarding the amount of their salaries and allowances.

It is worth mentioning that the value of the products manufactured at the Chadormalu mine, which will begin operation in Bahman 1374 [22 January-19 February 1995], is estimated at $20 million annually.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also visited the massive uranium mines at Saghand, which the Atomic Energy Organization has discovered and appraised. He also visited the desertification station at Chah-e Afzal in Ardakan, where he unveiled a memorial plaque at the station and planted a sapling at the site.

The president also met a large group of people who had come from afar, as well as from Ardakan, and stated that the objective of his visit is to resolve the problem of soil erosion and shifting sands in Yazd Province. To encourage the people of the area, he stressed the need to cultivate plants that need less water and are more beneficial, and asked the people to participate in desertification projects.

The president also inspected various sections of the Martyr Qandi communication cables factory in Yazd. When this factory becomes operational and reaches its ultimate capacity, it will cater to the needs of the country and export its products to foreign countries. This will result in foreign exchange savings of $30 million annually.

At the conclusion of his inspection tour of the various departments in this factory, the president met with the employees and experts and expressed his appreciation for their efforts.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also addressed a joint session of Yazd Province administrative offices and institutions. Commenting on the water shortage in the province, the president stated that the water supply project is a major one which demands serious cooperation on the part of the people and certainly will be followed up on.

The president added that a large segment of the foreign exchange budget for the next fiscal year, which earlier was allocated directly, henceforth will be reduced and paid in rials to other departments such as roads, agriculture, water, and power. He said: We have decided to eliminate the system by which the country's budget was calculated and paid to officials in U.S. dollars and to substitute it with rials.

The president unveiled a memorial plaque at the Kowsar water supply project in Yazd and announced the allocation of 20 billion rials for increased facilities for piping water to Yazd.

### Visits Steel Alloy Project

*NC3011143692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Report by unidentified Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent from Yazd on 29 November—recorded]

[Text] The presence of millions of selfless youths in our society is proof that the cultural effects of the Islamic Revolution have progressed well in our society. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who currently is visiting Yazd Province, said this at a meeting with the Yazd clerics and seminarians.

He continued: Today the enemy is seeking to use the cultural weapon to destroy us and is using all its resources, such as music, films, and modern audio and visual equipment, to influence our society. We should strengthen ourselves greatly and combat this in all possible forms, especially in the various cultural fields, to nurture the people's thinking so they have strong convictions.

Addressing the clerics, the head of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council stressed: Today we can work on cultural issues in the fields of radio, television, and cinema. We can convey this message in an indirect way, which will drive it home, and we can convince our youth in this manner. We thus can highlight the problems of their daily lives.

He added: According to the exhortations of the great leader of the revolution, the practice of Islamic jurisprudence by the administration is an important factor. This is an important need and can be correctly implemented by referring to the teachings of the Koran and using intellect and consensus of opinion. We therefore should tackle issues logically.

Prior to his address, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Saduqi, the Vali-ye Faqih's [supreme jurisconsult] deputy, referred to the presence of 14 theological schools in Yazd, the training of more than 1,200 seminarians, and reported on the services of this seminary to Islam and the revolution.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also attended Yazd Province's grand industrial exhibition and declared that the aim of the country's industrial policy is to boost production and upgrade the quality of goods, keeping in view the consumers' needs.

The president stressed that indigenous products should be able to rival similar foreign products, and this would require innovations and creativity. About 880 industrial production units are displaying their products at the Yazd industrial exhibition.

The president also inspected the site of the Yazd steel alloy project and was briefed by project officials on its progress. The Yazd steel alloy project is one of the major national projects, and the annual value of its products will be $280 million in the first phase and $700 million in the second. Italy and Japan are collaborating with the Iranian National Steel Company. This project stretches over an area of 300 hectares and is located 25 km west of Yazd.

### Promises Support to Industry

*LD3011174692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Excerpts] [passage omitted]

The aim of the country's industrial program is to boost production and increase production quality, so not to do injustice to the consumer. This was announced by the president while visiting the great industrial exhibition of Yazd Province. He said that after the war, the reconstruction and vitalization of industries is the important agenda of our work, which we have now achieved, and beside the increase in production, appropriate employment has been reached.

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] We will not leave industry without support. We know that for many years we will have to support it until our industry is able to stand on its own feet. Those industries that are economically efficient should remain; those that are uneconomic should change their line of production and choose another way to make the industrial work process healthy and reliable. But anyway you need support and we will provide it. So you should continue work with confidence and increase your investment. [end recording] [passage omitted]

On cultural policy he said: If we really have something useful to say, which we have, we should present it with logic, with reason, with the correct method, and with compassion. These youths have a pure heart. We should train artists from these Hezbollah youths. [passage omitted]

The president also said that according to the orders of the honored leader of the revolution, the state-jurisprudence and religious judgement [ijtihad] is of importance. It is necessary that with the use of the Koran, reason, and consensus [the three canons of jurisprudence], we should have the correct religious judgement and take a rational approach to matters. [passage omitted]

### Returns to Tehran

*LD3011223192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was in Yazd province on a three-day visit, returned to Tehran on the evening of 30 November. According to a Central News Unit correspondent's report, during his trip the president visited a number of manufacturing plants, iron and uranium ore mines, and towns in Yazd province and met and spoke to the people in those towns.

### * Opposition Network Members Reportedly Executed

*93AS0192A London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Nov 92 p 1*

[Text] 'Ali Fallahian, the minister of information and security of the regime of the Islamic Republic, who had traveled to the province of Kurdistan to "examine the security, political, and social situation in the region," announced last Saturday in Sanandaj that "a militant group" affiliated with "counterrevolutionary elements" was discovered, and its members were executed. He refused to give any other information concerning the composition and nature of this group, the number of its members, or the dates of their arrest and execution. Fallahian said that officials of the Ministry of Information and Security "have engaged in an extensive operation to identify and arrest terrorist elements."

Fallahian also announced that " 'Abdollah Tajmari," the head of the secret Kurdish Marxist organization, "Kumeleh" (which was established in 1969 and is engaged in armed activities around Sanandaj), as well as a spy by the name of "Mansur Ahmadi," who is supported by "Estekbarat" (the intelligence service) of Iraq, and also the members of a large embezzling network in the Kurdistan water agency were arrested. He advised the opponents of the Islamic Republic to "return as soon as possible to the loving lap of Islam and repent, because sooner or later the claws of Islamic justice will press the throats of these puppets and punish them for their disgraceful acts."

The French News Agency reported on 7 Nov from Tehran that the main objectives of Fallahian's trip to Kurdistan, during which he visited the border areas with Iraq, "is an effort to close Iran's borders to Iraq and sever relations between Iranian Kurds and Iraqi and Turkish Kurds."

After this visit, Fallahian said, "We have prepared suitable units to prevent and fight the counterrevolutionary movements." He warned Iranian Kurds in Sanandaj to preserve their "alertness" with regard to what is going on in Iraq and Turkey and claimed "the counterrevolution has no base here, and security has been assured."

### * Unprecedented Fall of Rial, Rise of Dollar

*93AS0192D London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Nov 92 p 4*

[Text] The shortage of foreign currency revenues in the Islamic Republic and the gradual decline of the dollar on the open market increased the value of this foreign currency. According to available reports from Tehran, the dollar early this week sold for 1,530 rials. The increase in the value of the dollar in the Islamic Republic and the unprecedented decline in the purchasing power of the rial has astonished economic circles. An expert in commercial affairs told KEYHAN that the increase in the price of the dollar is the direct result of the implementation of the secret policies of the Central Bank and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance of the regime. This increase in price is guided and controlled by the elements of these two agencies. The above-mentioned expert added: "The comparative value of the dollar and the rial as the floating foreign currency was set by the Central Bank of the Islamic regime, and, therefore, it is expected that the value of this currency with regard to other foreign currencies in the world alone will suffer from fluctuation dependent on the situation in the world market. On the other hand, its relationship to the rial may remain unaffected by large, significant fluctuations. The increase in the value of the dollar with regard to the rial in the past two or three weeks indicates that the regime and its economic leaders, secretly based on previous plans and taking advantage of the chaos and instability of this foreign currency on the world market, have directed this increase in price and are preparing the necessary grounds to announce the price of this foreign currency in the future."

Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance of the Islamic regime, in the middle of last week referred to the issue of the increase in the rate of the dollar and the decline in the value of the rial before the deputies of the Majles and confessed that the existing fluctuation in the market is a normal and to some extent controlled trend. In his speech, he announced the issue of standardizing the rate of foreign currency to be almost nullified and said: "With the government rate of foreign currency to the open market rate a ratio of 1 to 20, everyone wants government foreign currency. In other words, in this system, the government loses possession of dollars, and on the other hand no one will return dollars to the government." The minister of economic affairs and finance of the Islamic regime added: "Since the start of the implementation of the plan, we have injected other rates to government activities. In other words, we have chosen a multirate system so that at the present time we work with three rates, and mostly with two rates."

Before the deputies of the Majles he denied responsibility for himself and the director general of the Central Bank concerning decisions with regard to foreign currency policies and said:

"Deciding the foreign currency policy of the country is a duty of the Majles."

Continuing his statements, Mohsen Nurbakhsh pointed out: "Discussions concerning the rate of foreign currency must be handled in the Majles, and if the deputies come to the conclusion that there should be a single rate, we choose a single rate. On the other hand, if it is in our interest to continue the present system, we will pursue this double rate policy."

### Offices To Be Transferred to Provinces

*LD2911173592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Excerpt] With the approval of the High Administrative Council, in order to transform and reform the administrative structure of the nation, many government offices and organizations will gradually be transferred from Tehran to other provinces of the country. Mr. Razavi, vice president and the director of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization of the nation, spoke to reporters about this matter this morning. He said: Currently, over 1,000 government organizations and satellite companies are active in Tehran, three-quarters of which can be transferred to the provinces. To that end, administrative and service complexes will be commissioned in nine months time in a number of the country's cities. [passage omitted]

### Free Trade Zone Planned for Caspian Port

*LD2911180592 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Anzali (Gilan), IRNA—The Anzali port on the Caspian Sea would be declared as "the free trade zone" if approved by the Majles, according to an official here today.

Presidential Advisor for Commercial Affairs and Secretary of the High Council for Free Trade Zones, Morteza Alviri, told IRNA that in view of the recent changes in the Caspian littoral, setting up a free trade zone at Iran's northern coastline is economically justifiable.

The expansion of trade relations with the Central Asian and Trans-Caucasus countries requires investments for building new jetties at Anzali port to facilitate non-oil exports.

In view of the eagerness of the newly independent republics north of Iran to forge trade links with Persian Gulf states, Anzali port should be modernized for handling the transit cargo which is expected to be exchanged between the said countries via Iranian soil, Alviri elaborated.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has declared its Persian Gulf Islands of Kish and Qeshm as free trade zones, in addition to the mineral rich city of Sirjan, near Kerman in the southeast, where an ambitious railway project is underway.

The Islamic republic is carrying out giant industrial-commercial projects on Kish and Qeshm, the last named of which is the largest island in the Persian Gulf and lies near the Hormuz Strait.

### * Rise in Cab Fares Causes Uproar in Mazandaran

*934S0192B London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Nov 92 p 2*

[Text] Following the increase in urban taxi fares (from 30 to 50 rials) in several cities in Mazandaran Province, including Sari, Babol, and Nowshahr, fights broke out between passengers, on the one hand, and taxi drivers and security forces, on the other, which in some cases ended in bloody fights.

The protesters then assembled in front of the governor general's office in other cities and asked for reinstating the previous rate.

Officials of the Ministry of Interior, in order to prevent the spread of protests and their changing into demonstrations, announced that fares will be as before. It is said that the general manager of the taxi drivers union of Mazandaran has been arrested.

## Pakistan

### Russian Embassy Statement on POWs, Threats

*BK2811103692 Islamabad THE NATION in English 28 Nov 92 p 2*

[Text] Islamabad—The Embassy of Russian Federation issued here on Friday a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on the issue of prisoners of war.

Following the text of the statement. "Alarming information has been received from Pakistan. A group of field commanders affiliated to Hezb-e-Eslami Afghanistan [HEA] openly threatened to kill former Soviet serviceman kept prisoner by them and to launch a terrorist campaign against Russian citizens in Afghanistan. These statements are substantiated by absolutely groundless allegations that Russia interferes into Afghan affairs and collaborates with illegal Kabul regime". Printing of Afghan currency notes in Russia is being used as a pretext for such allegations and threats.

All Afghan political forces, including HEA of Hekmatyar, are well aware of the fact that Russia welcomed the commencement of peaceful political transformation of power in Afghanistan, reaffirmed its readiness to develop with the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan the relations based on the principles of equality free from hangover of the past, to promote multifaceted and mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation. Proceeding from this principled

approach the Russian side agreed on the request of the new Afghan authorities to fulfill its obligations under the previous commercial contract on printing of Afghan national currency.

The Russian side resolutely states that it does not interfere and does not intend to interfere into the internal conflict in Afghanistan and that the former Soviet servicemen kept prisoner in Afghanistan cannot be bargaining chips in the political trade off and hostages in the on-going confrontation in Afghanistan. The issue of the prisoners of war that has emerged as a result of the past involvement of the former Soviet Union in the Afghan affairs is of purely humanitarian character. Lives and safety of these people, their civilized treatment must be guaranteed in accordance with the principles of international law.

Threatening the lives of the prisoners of war-citizens of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] the leadership of HEA and all those who might be behind it assume great responsibility in the eyes of the international community.

Russia categorically rejects this attempted blackmail and is ready to immediately start negotiations with the Government of Afghanistan and all the Afghan groups to solve this humanitarian problems in the spirit of the resolution on the prisoners of war recently adopted by the 47th session of the UN General Assembly.

The Russian side counts on the active support of the UN and all the states that have influence on the Afghan political forces to prevent massacre of the prisoners of war that would be the most serious defiance of the universally accepted norms of humanism and human morality.

## Ishaq Khan on Change, Security, Economy

*BK3011145692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has said our efforts to develop the defense industry should be seen as part of our overall development strategy because defense sector is a component of the national economy. He was inaugurating a seminar on defense science and technology in Wah Camp today.

[Begin Khan recording] In our quest for indigenously sustained credible defense capability, we should not be entirely [word indistinct] by the butter and guns argument. Economic development is no doubt our priority number one, but our independence is certainly dearer to us. We know that security and development are indivisible. We can only hope to achieve our developmental targets in an environment of peace and within secured borders—hence, our conscious efforts for a durable peace in the region. But we also know that our desire for peace will be respected by others only if it is supplemented and supported by the country's known capability to defend itself. And, for that ability to be dependable, it has to be home grown. [end recording].

The president emphasized that the defense industry is a venture involving advanced technology which to be really productive and cost-effective has to be distributed over the whole range of industrial base. He said the private sector is looking forward to enter the defense production field, it must expand its technological base and acquire a degree of credible sophistication.

Later, talking to newsmen, the president said political differences can be resolved through dialogue and for that parliament is the proper forum. He said change in the government can only be brought about by constitutional means. In reply to a question regarding Opposition's agitation, the president said before taking such a step everyone should consider whether it would be in the interest of democracy and economy, or will it cause damage to them.

## President Meets ECO Foreign Ministers 28 Nov

*BK2911120192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said that the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] is fully capable of becoming a strong, effective, and dynamic organization which can bring about revolutionary changes in the living standard of 300 million people in a short time. The president was talking to delegation leaders of the Council of Ministers attending the extraordinary session of the ECO who called on him in Islamabad last night. The president reaffirmed that Pakistan is committed to carrying forward and implementing the objectives of the organization.

Welcoming the expansion of the ECO, which now includes 10 members, he asked the participants to ensure that the organization does not turn into a special bloc. On the contrary, we should also strengthen ties with countries which are not members of the ECO but have important links with some countries of the organization, such as the majority of the new members, who are also members of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. This will particularly help development of understanding and cooperation between the ECO and CIS countries, especially the Russian Federation, the president added.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan made it clear that the ECO countries naturally enjoy the position of an important economic zone and they can wholeheartedly work for the development of each other's economies. The president said that today when the economic relationship in the world is taking new shapes and new economic blocs are emerging, the ECO countries can effectively face this situation and avoid lagging behind in this race only by uniting themselves and strengthening their mutual economic relations.

The president assured the new member countries that Pakistan is ready to share its experience and expertise in economic reforms with them. Pakistan is also ready to offer port facilities to the Central Asian countries, access to the Pakistani market on a bilateral basis, and training for transition to a free market economy. Ghulam Ishaq Khan also briefed the ECO foreign ministers on the Kashmir problem, the present situation in occupied Kashmir, and Pakistan's position on the issue. He expressed hope that all countries with a correct perception will raise a voice for the just cause of the Kashmiri people.

### Ishaq Khan Receives Afghan Armed Forces Chief

*BK2911120492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] The visiting chief of staff of the Afghan Armed Forces, Mr. 'Abdorrahim Wardak, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today. He briefed the president about the present situation in Afghanistan and also thanked for the assistance extended by Pakistan for the success of the Afghan jihad. Talking to him, the president emphasized that the final phase of the Peshawar accord should be implemented as soon as possible to strengthen national unity and undertake the task of rehabilitation in Afghanistan. The president called upon the Afghan leaders to rise to the demand of time to enable the Afghan millat [community] to start reaping fruits of its glorious jihad without any further delay. He said restoration of normalcy was a precondition for the return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan as well as for uninterrupted flow of humanitarian assistance from Afghanistan's friends.

### Minister Receives Omani Armed Forces Chief

*BK2911145492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] The chief of staff of the Omani Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Khamis Bin Humaid Bin Salim Al Kilbani, called on the defense minister, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, in Rawalpindi today. During the meeting, views were exchanged on defense-related matters. The Omani general appreciated Pakistan for training Omani armed personnel and said this cooperation will continue.

### Minister Rejects Al-Qadhdhafi 'Interference'

*BK2711102192 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 26 Nov 92 pp 1, 2*

[Text] Islamabad—Rejecting Libyan leader Col. Al-Qadhdhafi's "interference" in Pakistan's internal affairs, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Main Abdus Sattar Lalika Wednesday said. "It is an open secret that terrorists involved in opposition's current agitation against the government were trained by Libya".

Talking to journalists the minister advised the Libyan leader "to mind his own business instead of expressing concern over Pakistan's internal matters".

The minister was asked whether the government has received Libyan leader's telegram in which he has voiced concern over beating and tear-gassing former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and other PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] demonstrators. "What Al-Qadhdhafi is doing in his own country for the past 25 years" Lalika asked adding "we desist from interfering in the internal affairs of other countries but it should not be an open invitation to others to interfere in our internal matters".

The minister said Pakistan government was putting pressure on Syria to extradite Mir Murtaza Bhutto, "who heads the terrorist organisation, Al-Zulfikar but Murtaza and his well-wishers are trying to ensure his safer stay in Libya."

Why Al-Qadhdhafi is a silent spectator to what is happening to Muslims in the Indian-held Kashmir? Lalika posed a question.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's foreign office Wednesday confirmed that Al-Qadhdhafi's message had been received and was under consideration for proper comments.

To another question Lalika dispelled the impression that president and chief of army staff (COAS) were in league with the opposition leader. "I do not think so. None of them can tell her (Benazir Bhutto) to do what she was doing," he added.

Responding yet another question, the minister claimed that only 1,400 people "who tried to take law into their hands" had been arrested so far. "but the question of torture does not arise at all."

When asked to explain government's future course of action to tackle opposition's long march, Lalika said, "it depends on opposition plans and moves. We will allow everything which is peaceful and constitutional, but nothing which is illegal and undemocratic," he said adding "we have demonstrated our policy in Lahore. As long it is a peaceful protest, we will not stop them".

Asked what guarantees do you want for allowing opposition's demonstrations, the minister said "we just want them to be peaceful".

When asked how long would you keep the leader of opposition out of Islamabad, where the Parliament House is situated? Lalika said "the government has banished her from Islamabad for 30 days only. It was in the interest of the country itself as sticks recovered from her party's secretariat were not brought for peaceful purposes."

When a correspondent drew his attention towards arrests of hundreds of workers and erection of barricades and questioned "even then you are claiming that people have not responded to Benazir Bhutto's call," the minister reminded that Pakistan was a country of 120 million people. He was of the view that instead of the nation it were only PPP's diehard workers who responded the call.

He said the "poor response" to the train long march would force Bhutto to reconsider her politics of "threats".

Regarding the suggestion of entering into dialogue with the opposition, the minister said "talks should be without any pre-condition. It will be better that Benazir Bhutto and her colleagues wait for 1995 and leave it to the people to elect the government of their choice. We are popular and stable government, why should we quit in threats of a selected group of the workers of a party," he asked? He made it clear that Nawaz government was ready for talks with opposition "but without any pre-condition". "Now as we have allowed their so-called train march the ball is in opposition's courts. It is up to them to respond in a democratic way."

Lalika claimed that opposition was afraid of prime minister's "bold" economic policies such as "industrialisation, privatisation, foreign investment and self-reliance". They fear that they would have no place in political arena if the present government is allowed to run country's affairs peacefully. This was the only reason that "power-hungry politicians" resorted to "agitation and violence" but people are more worried about health cover, educational facilities and clean drinking water that is why they did not respond to the "negative" call of the long march against the government struggling hard for the betterment of people, Lalika claimed.

### Jammu, Kashmir Coordination Council Formed

*BK2911155592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Four Kashmiri organizations in Pakistan have established the Jammu and Kashmir Coordination Council. The newly-formed council in a memorandum to Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif asked him to again raise the Kashmir issue at the United Nations Security Council as Pakistan-India talks on Kashmir under the Simla Agreement have failed to bear fruit. The memorandum said that the Indian Government is manipulating the Simla Agreement to strengthen its own position and to suppress the legitimate rights of the Kashmiris.